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Arctic Region Boundary Disputes Examined

954F2234A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Apr 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Vladimir Trofimov, doctor of juridical sciences and head of the apparatus of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, under the "Problem" rubric: "To Whom Does the Arctic Belong? On the Question of Russian Borders in the Northern Seas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of April of this year the State Duma adopted a short decree, consisting of only two lines: "To recommend that the president submit for ratification the Agreement Between the USSR and the United States of America on the Demarcation of Sea Spaces of 1990." This event remained practically unnoticed, which is not surprising. Few people in our country know that behind these short lines of the decree lies hidden a whole epoch of the formation and ruin of our country's Arctic claims.

In literary exposition, with a certain simplification of some factors (I hope that my jurist colleagues will not judge me for this), the whole story looks like this. It began far away and long ago, back at the beginning of the 20th century. Then, in 1906, Great Britain put forward claims on a portion of Antarctica, to be more precise, on a sector of the south polar continent bound between two meridians. At that time, the opening up of Antarctica seemed such a long-term prospect that this event did not evoke any especial protest.

After some time, Norway, France, Australia, and New Zealand announced claims on just such sectors in Antarctica. Then they were joined by Chile and Argentina. Toward the end, the USSR and the United States also remembered about their possible claims. These sectoral claims exist to this day.

However, the political partition of Antarctica is a separate interesting story. It is important, however, that the claims on Antarctica prompted tsarist Russia as well to come forward with just such claims, but this time with respect to the Arctic, which was a bit closer. In 1916 it was announced that Russia considered as belonging to it all islands and lands that might yet be discovered in the sector formed by two straight lines coming together at the North Pole and uniting the western and eastern borders of the territory of Russia in the Arctic Ocean.

Then the revolution happened here, and for some time the Arctic fell away from the Bolsheviks' field of vision. But not for long. Already in the mid-1920's, the USSR confirmed the claims of tsarist Russia with respect to its right to yet-undiscovered Arctic lands. Other states did not object. Of course, appetite comes with eating. Still more was desired. But there is, unfortunately, a significant difference between rights to islands that are to all purposes nonexistent and the right to this whole Arctic sector as a part of one's state territory. As is known from international law, in order to get some piece of land into one's possession, it is necessary to "effectively occupy it," that is, to settle on it and raise the state flag. At the same time, other states must not object.

Accordingly, our polar expeditions, which one could attempt to present as permanent settlements, emphatically demonstrated the state flag. Everything began well, but only for the time being. It turned out that the Arctic ice, in contrast to the continent of Antarctica, does not stay in one place, but drifts, and so significantly that the polar stations began to go far beyond the borders of the proposed "Soviet polar possessions." The entire secret undertaking turned out to be a bluff, but, as not infrequently happens, an acknowledgement to their own selves of this fact never did follow. More than that, since those long-ago times, on maps of the USSR, in the north there appeared a rather strange dotted line, very similar to the designation of a state border and murkily termed the "border of the Soviet polar possessions."

From inertia, the problem of the "Soviet polar sector" was still discussed for a fairly long time, up to the beginning of the 1980's, although it was already clear that there were simply no realistic arguments in its favor. But we continued to put obstacles in the way of foreign vessels in the Northern Sea Route, conducted some kind of sessions, and inserted into the texts of international conventions articles on "regions covered in ice." The Americans dispatched their warships to the Arctic Ocean, to the shores of the USSR, with the aim of checking to see whether we would protest, calling that region our internal waters. There really were protests from our side, but they were various and not always sufficiently intelligent. Once an American warship came within 12 nautical miles from the shore. We, of course, immediately sent a note of protest, indicating that it was not permissible to enter our territorial waters. However, if we officially called this zone "territorial waters," then about which internal waters was it possible to speak after that? Generally speaking, we were cheaply bought that time, as, for that matter, has happened more than once, and probably will in the future as well.

The concept of the Arctic sector as a part of the state territory collapsed for many other reasons as well: the adoption of the Geneva conventions on maritime law, and then also the UN convention on maritime law, by virtue of international practice, the lack of acknowledgement on the part of other states, the renunciation of other subarctic states of the sectoral principle, and so on. Only the Soviet political inertia remained unsinkable. No one ever made so bold as to concede that the claims to the sector were not only groundless, but sometimes even harmful.

Here, of course, it is necessary for the sake of fairness to note the positive role of these feeble efforts as well. Having a fairly good knowledge of the mechanism of the adoption in our country of state decisions, I am profoundly convinced that without our claims on the Arctic, the celebrated and splendid conquest of the Arctic Ocean, and our numerous polar expeditions, would simply never have taken place. It is another matter that many polar explorers do not even suspect why it was that our country suddenly, and so easily, handed out considerable money for all of this, why it so glorified its heroes.

The sectoral theory strongly influenced our negotiations with the Americans and Norwegians on the demarcation of the border seas. If in the Barents Sea it was advantageous, allowing for the claim of an additional section of the sea bed, then with the Americans in the Chukchi Sea, on the contrary, it played altogether against our interests. Despite this, negotiations with the Norwegians, as they say, "got hung up"—neither did they agree to our approach on demarcation according to meridian, nor did we, as luck would have it, yield.

As for the Americans, for a long time they simply refused to conduct negotiations with us on demarcation in the Chukchi Sea. And this is understandable. Their interests were evidently served by a straight demarcation line, which was also indirectly confirmed by the treaty on the sale of Alaska in 1867. But out of solidarity, they did not want to undermine the position of the Norwegians in their negotiations with us. Although they still prepared for negotiations with the USSR. Once at the beginning of the 1980's I came across, in a respected Western legal journal, an article by an American author who substantiated the claims of the United States on the Soviet Union's Wrangel Island. At first glance, the article appeared to me to be the work of an insane person. Well, all right, so a hundred years and more ago the Americans had something like a trading station there. But a lot of water had gone under the bridge since then; the island had long and irrevocably belonged to the USSR. But having looked at a map, I found a reasonable explanation for this article. If one draws a demarcation line in the Chukchi Sea equidistant from the Soviet and American coasts, disregarding Wrangel Island, it would seriously diverge in the direction of the USSR, that is, to the advantage of the United States. And if one begins from the island, which is completely rightful, then, on the contrary, it is to our advantage. Apparently, the Americans, foreseeing the inevitability of the beginning of negotiations, had begun in advance to prepare the ground for them, setting up a basis for the necessity of renouncing the taking of Wrangel Island into account.

However, as far as I know, it was not necessary to strongly urge the representatives of the USSR at these negotiations. In the end, the Americans conceded at them, since they had decided, evidently, that the precedent that was bad for the Norwegians would not play a decisive role in the Barents Sea.

That is how it turned out. In the Chukchi Sea, the line was drawn as the crow flies to the North Pole. Certain problems arose, however, in the Bering Sea. The temptation appeared to diverge from the straight-line principle in a small, isolated zone beyond the 200-nautical-mile boundary from the coast, and to delimit things differently. Arguments began, but not for long. Finally, they came to an agreement, drawing a line of complicated configuration. Here negotiations on this regarding the small piece beyond the 200-mile border unexpectedly became the subject of public discussion in the press. Several authoritative specialists expressed the opinion that here it would have been possible to demarcate differently, grabbing up a piece of the sea bed with an area of several tens of thousands of square kilometers. The agreement on the Chukchi and Bering Seas, signed in 1990 by E. Shevardnadze on our side, but never ratified until the present time, was "left hanging." The Americans, it is true, agreed to so-called "temporary adoption" (international law allows for such), and I personally doubt that they would have embarked on such a step if the agreement had been in any way disadvantageous for them.

In the past four years, several unsuccessful attempts have been undertaken to publicly examine the question of the advantageousness to us of this agreement. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs views the idea of ratification of its creation more than coolly. More than likely, the logic behind this is such. The agreement is controversial, and, on a wave of anti-American sentiment, it could simply not be ratified. That would mean that those areas of the continental shelf that the United States already views as their own property will suddenly cease to be such. And the Americans do not like such twists of fate. In America, the opinion would win out that a tough line should be taken with respect to Russia, which would lead to a worsening of bilateral relations. And at the same time, it is not at all inconceivable that as a result of additional negotiations, Russia's new rulers might conclude agreements still more disadvantageous.

I would not undertake to express an unequivocal appraisal with respect to this agreement. Sometimes it is more advisable to get a piece of territory that is a little smaller but richer in minerals. It is a complicated question, and here comprehensive expert evaluation is necessary.

At the same time, as it seems, there are grounds to take the following line with respect to this whole northern problem. First of all, to conclusively renounce the harmful undertaking of securing the "polar sector" for ourselves. In my view, this conception has already long become absolutely unrealizable, although, perhaps, outwardly it appears attractive. At the same time, however, we must certainly not publicly repudiate the sectoral lines themselves—no one had an argument with them, and they could come in useful at negotiations on the demarcation of the sea bed. But if as a whole we cling to the sector, then we will have to acknowledge that the demarcation in the Chukchi Sea by meridian answers to some strategic interests of ours. And that is just not so. Maybe it would be more correct to take up the position of demarcation in the Chukchi Sea according to an equidistant line, taking Wrangel Island into account.

Secondly, it would be desirable, come what may, to continue stubbornly and endlessly to insist on demarcation with the Norwegians by meridian and at best to agree on an insignificant compromise. Here we simply must not retreat, for as long as it takes. The thing is that demarcation with the Americans by meridian did not help us to convince the Norwegians to do the same in the Barents Sea. And it will not help—we should not fool ourselves.

So up until now, instead of demarcation with Norway by meridian and with the United States by equidistant line, we, it seems, as always, have done everything in just about the opposite way: with the Norwegians, along an equidistant line, and with America—along the meridian.

In connection with the 1990 agreement, two variants are possible. The first: We ratify it, and then all the arguments adduced above will present only general-knowledge value. A more complicated variant is refusal to ratify. If we simply do not ratify it, then the Americans will certainly continue to secure their grip in the disputed regions, giving out licenses, in particular, for prospecting and development of sea-bed resources. They will not conduct negotiations with us, and after a certain length of time will sort of de facto make those regions theirs. I think that here we must act more craftily, also advancing our own territorial claims. If ratification does not go through, then we must not stop there. It is necessary to make the clear decision that before conclusion of a new agreement with the United States, we temporarily view some definite boundary as the demarcation line. And it is necessary to characterize such a line in the Chukchi and Bering Seas according to the maximum allowed by international law. Where it is more advantageous, along an equidistant line, and where not, differently; as the crow flies, for example.

Such a claim will doubtless play a decisive role and will force the Americans at last to sit down at the negotiating table. After all, we will clearly declare our claims to the disputed regions. And that means that activity there for American companies and citizens will be associated with additional risk, especially taking into account the prospects of new politicians coming to power in Russia. And there, in a trice, we will have become ready for practical exploitation of this part of the shelf.

And finally, it would be worthwhile to touch upon an interesting question: Is anyone to blame for the conclusion of this notorious agreement with the United States? The first attempt of the procuracy to look into this turned out in 1991 to be unsuccessful. In essence, it is fairly simple to dot the "i's." For example, to go into the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and look carefully at all the documents having to do with this problem. And there are interesting papers there. For example, a map prepared by the CIA and obtained by our people who knows how. On it, in the Chukchi Sea, is marked a presumed oil field, which in the case of demarcation along an equidistant line would go to the USSR. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs there is a good tradition to sign off on documents with which one has familiarized oneself. So it is enough to take a look at the official stamps on this map and on other similar documents, and it will become clear who of our diplomats, in what position, held to negotiations, and whether he was aware of what he was doing or not.

That is the almost thriller-like plot that lies hidden behind a pair of lines of what seems to be an ordinary decree of the State Duma. We will see how this remarkable story ends.

Karabakh Peace Talks Continue in Moscow

LD1505191595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh have continued three-party peace talks in Moscow, with Russia and Finland acting as mediators of the OSCE-sponsored Minsk conference for the disputed territory.

The three sides say all previous rounds produced little of substance. They are still at odds as to who exactly should be a party to the negotiation.

President Boris Yeltsin in messages to Azeri and Armenian leaders Heydar Aliyev and Levon Ter-Petrosian on May 12 timed to coincide with one year since a regional ceasefire was declared called to give a nudge to the peace talks triggered by Moscow two years ago.

Russian envoy for Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov expects the warring sides not to put any preconditions to avert any complications that marred the February round.

In an interview with Interfax on Sunday, he said that the OSCE mediators in the talks would do their utmost to try to ease discussion of the wording of the proposed deal and key issues of a peace settlement to meet the three sides' wishes.

The Minsk group for Karabakh is expected to meet in Moscow at the end of this round of peace talks.

On a proposal from Russian and OSCE mediators, Armenia set free all of the 29 prisoners of war and hostages indicated on a list by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the eve of one year since the regional truce. Karabakh released 15 out of 130 prisoners it holds and Azerbaijan only 35 saying the remaining 26 prisoners were being held on criminal charges.

At the same time, Aliyev at a press conference in Baku expressed regret that the ICRC had failed to identify hundreds of Azeri prisoners and hostages held by Armenia which, he hopes, will set conditions necessary to carry out the job.

He pledged commitment to a peaceful solution to the regional conflict despite the fact that "20% of Azeri territory is under foreign occupation". Aliyev believes UN and OSCE efforts form a solid groundwork for a peace settlement.

The problem of a regional settlement was also high on the agenda of a session by the CIS interparliamentary assembly (MPA) in St Petersburg over the weekend.

Vadim Gustov, head of the CIS affairs committee of the Federation Council (the upper house of Russian parliament), called on CIS leaders to adopt a special document aimed at a Karabakh settlement at their next summit.

In a speech to the session, he proposed a MPA-sponsored meeting of the three parties to the conflict this autumn to try to analyze the negotiating process and help resolve remaining controversies.

Gustov believes that at this stage, the warring parties mu[st focus effort on three main directions: stiffening the one-year truce, accelerating the negotiating process and resolving humanitarian issues.

Vice Speaker of the Azeri Parliament Yashar Aliyev in an interview with Interfax described the past 12 months as the time wasted for the conclusion of an outline agreement. He is worried over this and the risk of the situation being frozen. Aliyev said each day wasted is wasted for the warring sides and the world community as a whole.

For his part, Speaker of the Armenian Parliament Babken Ararktsian called for striking a framework political deal instead of focusing on minor issues which could hamper the process.

The MPA recommended that CIS states adopt legislation aimed to protect prisoners of war and civilians at the time of military conflicts.

A draft law proposed by Azerbaijan bans any violence or intimidation against civilians, hostage taking, deportation of local residents, looting or destruction of property not hampering military operations.

It also bans any violence or harassment or summary executions against prisoners of war. Any court rulings must be passed in line with legal guarantees recognized by international law.

However, the status of a prisoner of war does not cover spies or mercenaries.

The proposed law also provides for the appointment of a patron state for an impartial enforcement of its provisions or for the ICRC to fulfil the functions of such a patron if none is appointed in two weeks' time.

Asked if the proposed law applies to the Chechen crisis, MPA Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said it covered "all military conflicts in the CIS."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 May

LD1605080795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0650 GMT 16 may 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW May 16 (Itar-Tass) — Today's leading newspapers single out two main topics: the foundation of the centrist movement "Our Home Is Russia" (Russian abbreviation NDR) as well as parliamentary elections and a referendum in Belarus on May 14.

"The establishment of the centrist movement 'Our Home Is Russia', called a party of evolution," the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper writes, "provoked regrouping of right-wing and left-wing forces.

"Announcing the establishment of his electoral bloc which includes the power-wielding elite of Moscow and regions," the newspaper stresses, "Viktor Chernomyrdin prodded the leaders of the democratic camp to express their attitude to the developing political 'centre'.

"Both Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Yegor Gaydar stated that their associations will not join Chernomyrdin's bloc. Yavlinskiy describes the NDR's intentions as an attempt to preserve power by those who already wield it and try to keep the economy and politics in the present state only by stabilising it."

"A demonstratively brazen establishment of the NDR movement," the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper notes, "shocked any opposition, and what is the main thing, voters.

"Of course, the congress of government limousines and the police cordon around the Film Centre in Krasnaya Presnya where uncrowned kings of Russia gathered, was impressive even for Moscow, the world capital of top officialdom.

"Small doubt, cynical allegations that not a single taxpayers' rouble will be used to found the NDR, is evidence of either a lie as a way of thinking of the 'party of power' founders, or (which is more likely) of their organic inability not to mix ... 'personal fleece with the state one'."

The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper prints the full text of the Political Statement by the founding congress of the NDR movement.

Commenting on the results of the general elections and the referendum in Belarus, NEZAVISIAMAYA GAZETA notes: "The Belarusian ruling elite enters a communist renaissance, under which real economic reforms are out of question.

As for economic integration with Russia, plans of Lukashenka that Moscow will have no other choice, may end in a flop. It is highly improbable that Russia will be able and will want to keep unreformed Belarus afloat.

In the opinion of the IZVESTIYA newspaper, the results of the parliamentary elections and the referendum in Belarus "have muddled up even more the difficult political situation in the republic".

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper claims that "neither the old nor the new parliament can oppose activities by Lukashenka who will undoubtedly interpret the referendum results as a vote of confidence in him personally".

The PRAVDA newspaper writes the following on this issue: "A forecast by politicians, not inclined to be fatalistic, has come true: The criminal act of 'liquidating' the Soviet Union was committed here, in Belarus. Its revival will also start from Belarus".

The TRUD newspaper features an interview with Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Countries, in whose opinion "it is impossible to restore the Soviet Union either quietly or loudly. What we are really preoccupied with, has another definition: strengthening of integration within the CIS", he said.

The same newspaper runs an interview with the Russian president's assistant for economic affairs Aleksandr Livshits who admits that "living standards have noticeably dropped in the recent past, but a positive potential is accumulating at the macro level.

"Rank and file citizens do not see, naturally, this. However, positive changes will be tangible for many some time later."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with chairman of the Russian Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov who claims that "a mechanism to control spending of funds will be put into action at the coming elections.

"Candidates for parliament will be forbidden to use other monetary resources than those received by the electoral fund," Ryabov stressed.

The army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA prints an interview with Pyotr Shirshov, chairman of the Federation Council (Russian parliament upper chamber) Committee on Security and Defence, commenting on the federal law on the military duty and military service.

According to Shirshov, "the Russian army now needs such a law. It 'works' for security of the state and for strengthening of the Armed Forces. Russia without a strong army is not Russia," Shirshov stressed.

PRAVDA publishes an interview with Andrey Nikolayev, director of the Russian Federal Border Service, who notes that where there is no need for border troops, local population should be enlisted to protect borders, and border and Cossack settlements should be established in such places.

Under the heading "Parliamentary Diary", the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper prints a feature by Vladimir Isakov, a member of parliament from the Communist Party, claiming that, "using the thesis on 'the danger of reviving fascism' in Russia in his speeches, Boris Yeltsin prepares justification of his future anti-constitutional actions for world public opinion".

Work of Year-Old Coal, Metal Association Reviewed

MM1605095695 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 13 May 95 p 4

[Report by Vladimir Filippov: "Advantages Which Have Yet To Be Derived" — from the "Industrial Gazette" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interstate Eurasian Coal and Metal Association is a highly important, if, unfortunately, so far almost unused, instrument for improving the situation in the fundamental sectors of industry — metallurgy and coal.

The fact that the metallurgical sector has stabilized production, and, moreover, has begun to increase output, is gratifying in itself, but still does not signify that the crisis has been overcome. This will happen only when a stable market for metallurgical products emerges, especially in Russia and the CIS countries. Such a market will also create the conditions for the stable working of the mines and alleviate the severity of the situation in the coal industry. In point of fact, the Interstate Eurasian Coal and Metal Association was set up precisely with this idea: for metallurgical workers and miners to overcome the crisis together, and moreover, not just in Russia, but throughout the Commonwealth.

One of the association's main tasks is to revive on a new basis production sharing between enterprises of the coal and metallurgical complex, which under the Union were bound together in a single technological chain, and to form the optimum conditions for the development of metallurgy , above all through a coordinated pricing policy on coking coal, a highly important energy source for metallurgical workers, and through optimizing its transportation.

It is worth recalling that these were precisely the conditions created in Europe thanks to the formation in 1952 of the [European] Coal and Steel Community, which served as the basis for the development of a modern industry by the Common Market countries, and created a platform for the subsequent integration of the member states.

The agreement on the formation of the Interstate Eurasian Coal and Metal Association was signed by 11 CIS member states in September 1993, and the headquarters of this organization were officially registered in Moscow in April 1994. Thus a year has passed since this. It cannot be said that the association has been standing still during this time. Its leading, executive, and working organs have been constituted, and a number of conferences have been held, including conferences devoted to the coordination of CIS metallurgical workers, the search for a common language with rail workers and for mutually acceptable decisions on intersectoral cooperation, and to ways of implementing interstate agreements on developing production sharing in the CIS countries.

But how is it to be developed, if each republic speaks its own economic and legal language? For instance, Kazakhstan has one set of rules for relations between metallurgical workers and the customs, tax, and other services, while Ukraine has another. And in other republics such rules have simply not yet been elaborated. What question can there be of production sharing in a unified economic area, given such a juridical patchwork! The first steps toward the unification of economic law in the Commonwealth have been made by Russian metallurgical workers. They have elaborated a sufficiently full package of the necessary documents, which is entirely applicable for perfecting model relations with interested departments in other sectors within Russia, and also with their fellow metallurgical workers in the CIS countries. The Interstate Eurasian Coal and Metal Association's working group found at its last session, which was devoted to questions of preserving and consolidating production sharing, that this package could serve as norm for the association's other member countries, and recommended that they adopt it as a working basis. The ball is now in the republics' court.

Representatives of the directors' corps of the CIS countries who spoke at the conference (which was chaired by Oleg Ivanov, Uzbekistan's representative) also noted that the actual idea of the union of metallurgical workers and coal miners is so far being poorly implemented. For example, Russian miners are currently bypassing the association in their work with their Ukrainian partners, thereby depriving themselves of customs, tax, and transport concessions. Participants in the conference requested the "Rosugol" company to take charge of work to elaborate joint actions by coal miners in the development of production sharing.

It was noted also that to this day the agreement on the formation of the Interstate Eurasian Coal and Metal Association has been ratified in only five countries, and so far only Russia is funding the association's activity. In short, the commonwealth of coal miners and metallurgical workers still has many problems, and the longer it takes to resolve them, the longer it will take to create the system of coordinated interstate policy in the sphere of the metallurgical and coal industries which in Western Europe served as the basis for its current economic prosperity.

Further on Defense Minister's Visit to PRC

Holds Talks With PRC Counterpart

LD1605055895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0506 GMT 16 May 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beijing, 16 May, (ITAR-TASS) — At a time when the world is marking the 50th anniversary of the war against fascism the Russian defense minister's visit to China is of particular significance for the development of friendly contacts between the two countries' armed forces and for expanding Sino-Russian interstate relations. Chinese National Defense Minister Chi Haotian said this today at talks with Pavel Grachev which were held at the Diaoyutai residence for honored guests. The Russian defense minister arrived along with a large group of military commanders in China yesterday on a five-day official visit.

Chi Haotian praised the role of the Red Army in defeating fascism both in the East and in the West. The Red Army's offensive in north-eastern China played, he said, an essential part in winning the war of resistance against Japan. "The historical achievements of the Red Army must," the Chinese minister stressed, "never be consigned to oblivion. China and Russia suffered very heavy losses in the war and neither the Chinese nor the Russians will ever forget that."

Russia and China, two great powers, Pavel Grachev said at the talks, have an interest in peace and stability in the region. We pay homage to the two people's great sacrifices which were made to achieve the Victory and ensure the peace we enjoy today, he said.

"The sincere and heartfelt words said by PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin on the Hill of Tributes [Poklonnaya gora] on 9 May," the minister went on, "confirm our common aspiration towards good and honest relations between the Russian Federation and the PRC. It is our duty to the fallen and the living to build a new world so that our descendants will value the merit of our work." [passage omitted]

Grachev on Chinese Nuclear Test

LD1605064895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0630 GMT 16 May 95

[By Grigory Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] BEIJING, May 16 (Itar-Tass) — At the time when the whole world is observing the 50th anniversary of the Victory in the war against fascism, the visit of the Russian Defence Minister to China is of special importance for the development of friendly relations between the armed forces of the two countries, for the expansion of Chinese-Russian inter-state relations, Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian said at the talks with Pavel Grachev, held in Diaoyutai, a residence for guests of honour. He arrived in China the day before for a five-day official visit, accompanied by a large group of high-ranking officers. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the meeting with journalists before the beginning of the talks, Grachev emphatically refuted reports in some mass media, which said that his delegation had come to Beijing to discuss Russian arms sales to China, including the sales of aircraft.

Commenting on the nuclear arms test, conducted by China the day before, Grachev said that "Russia responded calmly to the nuclear test, conducted by China, but is following closely the developments connected with it." According to Grachev, Moscow favours a universal moratorium on nuclear tests.

PRC Said Ready To Stop Nuclear Tests

LD1605110495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0912 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING, May 16 (Interfax) — China is ready to stop nuclear arms tests, the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told the press in Beijing Tuesday after talks with his Chinese counterpart Chi Haotian. Grachev, now on an official visit in China, said the readiness was clearly stated to him by the Chinese minister.

The two ministers signed a protocol of their working meeting after the talks expressing satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations.

After the negotiations Grachev told journalists the Russian delegation suggested steps to guarantee security in Asia and the Pacific, in particular to form a sub-regional collective security system in North-East Asia involving six countries: Russia, China, the USA, Japan, North and South Korea. He stressed that the opinions of Russia and the Chinese side on the matter coincide.

However, the formation of such a security system will take much time. "At the beginning the question should be discussed in the context of bilateral dialogues. Only then a joint conference of the six countries can be held," Grachev said.

The defense ministers failed to pass a final decision on demilitarizing the border zone. "We disagree on the amount of armaments and military hardware to be stationed in the 100 kilometer belt along the Russian-Chinese frontier," Grachev said after the Beijing talks.

According to him, the figures suggested by the Chinese side are unacceptable for Russia. He also doubted the possibility of an agreement on demilitarization in the near future. He said the text of an agreement on mutual confidence in the 100 kilometer zone should be worked out by the visit of President Boris Yeltsin to Beijing scheduled for the end of the year.

A member of the Russian delegation told Interfax, 90% of the forces of the Far Eastern and Baikal military districts are concentrated along the frontier. According to him, Beijing suggests reducing the Russian army group in the region by half. "We cannot agree to that because such a cut would considerably damage our security in Asia and the Pacific," the official said. China has major military formations in the area. "They are deep inside the country therefore China does not have much to reduce in the frontier zone", the spokesman added.

According to an Interfax correspondent in Beijing, after talks with his counterpart Grachev flew to South China Tuesday. In Shanghai he is to meet Chairman Jiang Zemin. "The meeting will be held at the initiative of the Chinese leadership. I am happy that the visit of the Russian military delegation is held at the highest level. This never happened before," Grachev said.

Further on Meeting With Chi Haotian

LD1605101995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 16 May 95

[By Grigoriy Arslanov and Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING, May 16 (Itar-Tass) — During today's talks with Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev moved to discuss the problem of creating a collective security system for the Asia-Pacific region.

"The creation of such a system is a long-term strategic task," Grachev told journalists here after the talks. The minister believes that the attainment of this goal is a far from easy task, particularly in the situation when "not all the countries are now ready to discuss it". Nevetheless, there is reason to "think it over" already now.

As the first step in this direction he moved to set up a sub-regional security system in North-Eastern Asia, including six countries — Russia, the United States, Japan, China, North Korea, and South Korea. Grachev noted that the views of Russia and China on this matter "coincide in principle". This subject, he added, was raised in Moscow during U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry's latest visit to Russia.

Such a security system, the general stressed, does not imply the creation of a new bloc. It will merely envisage "the discussion by countries of the region of matters linked with the safeguarding of peace by means of collected actions".

Defense Ministers Discuss Border Issues

LD1605120295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1142 GMT 16 May 95

[By Grigory Arslanov, Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING May 16 (Itar-Tass) — The reduction of arms and armed forces of the People's Liberation army of China and of the Russian army along the Russo-Chinese border is the main problem touched upon during the negotiations between the defence ministers of Russia and China today, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said. The possibility of signing an agreement to this effect is being discussed.

Grachev told journalists that 15 rounds of the talks have already been held and that the sides are "arriving at understanding". However, the 100-kilometre zone remains the "stumbling-block", the 100 kilometres on the Russian side and 100 kilometres on the Chinese side to which the agreement should apply. Russia and China differ on the amount of armaments and equipment that can be kept in the 100-kilometre zone in the Russian territory.

"The figures suggested by China are unacceptable to Russia", the minister said. "They are unacceptable only for the reason that Russia's geographic position and climatic conditions differ from those of China. Grachev explained that for this reason all Russian equipment and armaments are situated in that zone, while the 100-kilometre zone of China is virtually clear of arms.

"This matter will continue to be discussed, but the signing of the agreement in near future is unlikely", Grachev said. At the same time the sides hope to draft an agreement on mutual confidence in precisely in that 100-kilometre zone by the time Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits China. The visit is expected to take place in the second half of this year.

"We are on the whole highly satisfied with the course of the visit", Grachev noted. Prospects for cooperation in the military area were touched upon at the talks. "This cooperation is developing with every passing day", Grachev said. Close ties are maintained between frontier districts of the two countries.

The Russian defence minister cited his Chinese counterpart Chi Haotian as saying that the relations between the two countries set the example to other Asia-Pacific countries. China attaches much importance to the present visit. It will be the first time that a Russian defence minister will be received by Chairman of the PRC Jiang Zemin, Grachev said.

Grachev said General Chi Haotian had made explanations in connection with China's nuclear weapon test held on Monday. "The PRC asserts that in the previous years all other nuclear countries, Russia included, held many more tests and that their arms are more modern than Chinese. This is why the PRC tries to catch up with Russia for the number of nuclear explosions", the minister said. At the same time Grachev noted the Chinese defence minister clearly stated that China favours a total ban on nuclear weapon tests and will stop the explosions if the treaty is signed.

Meets With Military Council Official

LD1605082395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0748 GMT 16 May 95

[By Grigoriy Arslanov and Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING, May 16 (Itar-Tass) — Colonel General Liu Huaqing, deputy chairman of the Central Military Council of China who is in charge of military-technical issues, said today that China was very much interested in developing cooperation with Russia in that sphere. "General Liu Huaqing fully relies on military-technical cooperation with Russia," Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said in an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass immediately after his meeting with the Chinese general, who is one of the top seven leaders of the Communist Party of China and a member of the permanent committee of the party's politburo.

According to Grachev, Liu Huaqing "has set his mind on Russia. He knows Russia's military hardware and appreciates it." He reaffirmed at today's talks China's intention to develop closer relations with Russia in this sphere, Grachev continued.

After the talks with Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian and his meeting with Liu Huaqing, Grachev left for a tour of the country. He is going to visit Nanjing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen. His meeting with Jiang Zemin, Chairman of the People's Republic of China and head of the Central Military Council, is planned to be held in Shanghai tonight.

IZVESTIYA Article on Aims of PRC Visit

MM1505161195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 May 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Beijing Shakes the Honest Hand of Military Leader Grachev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing — Early summer in Beijing promises to be a season of intensive exchange of greetings between Russian and Chinese generals. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, with his impressive retinue of military commanders, is even now on a four-day visit to the PRC. Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin and Federal Border Service Director Andrey Nikolayev are expected to follow hard on his heels.

Such a rapid revival of contacts between the heads of power departments in the two states is causing foreign reporters in Beijing to ask many questions. What they want to know above all is whether the "invasion" by Russian generals is connected with supplies of our armaments to China. It has been learned from informed sources that during the talks between Grachev's delegation and Chinese military department chief Chi Haotian and other officials there will also be a discussion of military-technical cooperation. In fact, Su-27 fighters and S-300 antiaircraft missile systems are already to be found in China and a "Varshavyanka" submarine has arrived too. Russian officers have been sent to the PRC to maintain our military equipment and train Chinese personnel. So P. Deynekin, commander in chief of the air force, and I. Khmalnov, commander of the Pacific Fleet, will have something to discuss with their Chinese colleagues.

But the army delegation's visit is taking place in the context of the agreement on cooperation between military departments, which does not touch on the arms trade. The main purpose of the visit, as we can see from what Grachev said to Russian journalists in Beijing, is to broaden ties and learn about the life of the Chinese Armed Forces.

This process is not going at all smoothly at the moment. The Chinese side is not displaying the same degree of openness as the Russian side shows during visits to us by the Chinese military. For example, twice already Chinese observers have been present at exercises in the Russian Far East. Russian officers have not been invited to exercises in the PRC.

But mutual information about maneuvers, movements of forces, and the neighbor's intentions are becoming particularly important today. Not for nothing are representatives of four CIS countries (Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) and China devising an agreement on confidence-building measures in the military sphere in the border region. Grachev is expected to broach this subject during the conversations in Beijing.

As for Yerin and Nikolayev, sources put their trips immediately after the army delegation down to coincidence. The trips by the chiefs of the two power structures were provided for in the 1992 Russian-Chinese declaration. But Tajikistan and then other "complications" got in the way. Now the opportunity to engage in foreign links has finally arisen.

Contacts between the armed forces of two powers like Russia and China are not only desirable, but necessary as well. Who would dispute that? But they are viewed with mounting alarm in East Asia. As Goh Chok Tong, premier of Singapore, said, China's military ambitions, in particular its claims on islands in the South China Sea, create a feeling of menace in the region, and as long as Russia continues to help strengthen the might of Chinese weapons, this feeling will remain.

Be that as it may, for Grachev the trip to the PRC (the minister will fly on from here to South Korea) was very opportune. Indeed, it was an opportunity to show that even after Chechnya there are still states where politicians and the military are prepared to shake his military leader's hand.

IZVESTIYA Correspondent on Military Relations

LD1505210895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian defense minister is visiting China. Vladimir Skosyrev, an IZVESTIYA correspondent, reports from Beijing:

[Skosyrev] The minister told Russian journalists after arriving in Beijing that the aim of his visit was to deepen relations between the Russian and Chinese armies. And indeed, our delegation seeks to strengthen bilateral ties and to get to know the everyday life of the Chinese armed forces. But the process is far from smooth. The Chinese side does not demonstrate the same degree of openness as the Russian army when Chinese military visit us. For example, Chinese observers have already been twice at military training exercises in the Far East but Russian officers have not been invited to attend military training exercises in China.

And another characteristic feature. China carried out an underground nuclear test on the day that Grachev was expected in China. In the opinion of western experts, new types of warheads for intercontinental missiles are being tried out in the current series of tests. They can reach any target in Russia, East Asia and on the western coast of the United States.

China's nuclear strategy is unlikely to be discussed at the talks in Beijing. However, China's increasing military potential shows that there is a long way to go until mutual suspicions in China's relations with Russia, the United States and other nuclear powers completely disappear.

Daily Sees Trip Focusing on Air Weapons Trade

MK1605102095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 May 95 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Koretskiy under the "Pavel Grachev's Visit to China" rubric: "Minister Greeted by Underground Nuclear Fireworks"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The [14 May nuclear] test, the first conducted by China since last October, is unlikely considerably to affect bilateral relations. But it cannot be dismissed as a coincidence either. It cannot be ruled out that by so doing Beijing has thanked Moscow for a number of protocol lapses that occurred during Chinese leader Jiang Zemin's stay in Moscow during to mark the 50th anniversary of V-E day (particularly, for an incident at the festive reception in the Kremlin palace, where he was nearly denied the floor).

During the Russian defense minister's talks with his Chinese counterpart, Chi Haotian, there are plans to discuss questions of enhancing cooperation between the two countries' armies at the regional level. For this purpose, the Russian delegation includes Pacific Fleet Commander Igor Khmelnov and Far Eastern Military District Commander Viktor Chechevatov. Prospects for their robust military-technical cooperation — the PRC is steadily increasing its procurements of Russian weapons, purchasing up to 20 percent of all weaponry exported by Moscow — will be discussed during talks with Jiang Zemin; Liu Huaqing, Jiang's deputy as chief of the Central Military Council; and Chi Haotian. Judging from the presence of Air Force Commander Petr Deynekin in the Russian delegation, emphasis during the talks will placed on aviation equipment deliveries. Beijing has long been wishing to buy licenses to manufacture aircraft. Moscow, however, has stubbornly been insisting on keeping existing trade practices intact in an attempt to prevent leaks of up-to-date technologies. It cannot be ruled out that during the talks, Grachev and Deynekin may persuade the hosts to buy yet another consignment of Su-27's or, maybe, state-of-the-art Su-30's.

The problems of increasing Russian arms exports will also be discussed during Pavel Grachev's visit to South Korea. Last year, after lengthy and difficult talks Seoul and Moscow agreed on South Korea's purchase of a consignment of S-300 missile systems. But at the final stage the United States intervened in the transaction and, in an ultimatum, urged its ally to forgo the purchase of S-300's in favor of Patriots. Although Seoul had to back down at that time, the Korean military has not lost its interest in Russian weapons. As for Grachev's planned meeting with the South Korean president, the minister will have to display all his diplomatic skills there because the issue will be the problem of North Korean nuclear reactors and Russia's role in resolving this matter.

Ministry Expresses 'Regret' at PRC Nuclear Test

LD1505180495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1736 GMT 15 May 95

[By Andrey Kirillov and Vladimir Solntsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 15 (Itar-Tass) — Russia expressed its "regret and anxiety" in connection with a nuclear test conducted by China on Monday, as well as its hope that Beijing would refrain from further blasts.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that "it has been already fourth blast in the People's Republic of China, while other nuclear powers, showing restraint, have been jointly observing moratoria imposed by them on such tests".

China's step does not promote "a favourable atmosphere round the multilateral Geneva talks on a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests", the statement went on saying.

The document expressed hope that "China would reconsider its stance toward nuclear tests and would refrain from continuing them".

Meanwhile in Beijing today, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official stated that China favours "a comprehensive ban and total elimination of nuclear weapons", stressing that it would drop nuclear tests as soon as a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty takes effect.

Moscow's Mayor Departs for Visit to Beijing

LD1505210095 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov left for Beijing late this evening. INTERFAX has learned at the mayor's office that Luzhkov was invited to visit Beijing by its mayor, and his visit was limited to Beijing only. He is accompanied by Vladimir Resin, head of the municipal construction department.

Luzhkov Discusses Crime-Fighting

LD1605091195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0839 GMT 16 May 95

[By Aleksandr Romanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING May 16 (Itar-Tass) — Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, on a five-day visit in Beijing, gave an exclusive interview to Itar—Tass on Tuesday. "Fundamental reforms are always accompanied by the growth of crime and corruption. China is known to combat these phenomena in a tough way. This experience is of interest to us. Perhaps there would be sense in ours using as radical forms," Luzhkov asked.

"It is important to us to learn more about transformations in Beijing. We are clear about our Russian aims and ways of achieving them. We know how this happens with reliance on the 'right wing', but we are not clear how this will happpen with reliance of the 'left'. The study of this experience makes it possible to determine the proper way concerning the existing trends. But still it would be better to be in the middle of the road", Moscow mayor believes.

"Beijing is one of the world's largest cities. It grows rapidly. Large-scale construction is underway in Moscow too, and methods of economic ensurance of large-scale construction are of much interest to us. We have established the exchange of delegations, vigorously exchange in matters of ensuring law and order, in transport services, which is always a big problem for large cities," the mayor said.

Luzhkov said that of special importance is the experience of economic transformations made in Russia and in China. "We have similar goals, but we use different methods. In Moscow, economic transformations are quite intensive, and it is characteristic that they are made without as strong an influence of political structures as in China. We have many political structures but they do not have the dominant influence on economic processes. In China economic reforms are rigidly controlled by the communist party. It is interesting to compare what is better, where the biggest results are achieved. Adjustments then can be made, not radical correctives, but adjustments considering the fact that the economies in the two countries were similar, centralised, but tranformations proceeded in different ways with diferent political ensurance", Luzhkov said.

ROK Fails To Get PRC Support on Nuclear Issue

SK1605021895 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean GMT 1200 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an ITAR-TASS report from Beijing, ROK Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku's junket to the PRC has ended. He held talks with PRC Premier Li Peng and met with PRC President Jiang Zemin, too.

It has been reported that his talks with the PRC leaders focused on the solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. But, according to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's report quoting a reliable source, Yi Hong-ku failed to obtain the support from Beijing on the solution of this issue.

In the negotiations on the mutual cooperation in the trade and economic field, the two sides focussed on the issue of the PRC's deficit in its trade with Seoul. According to the data of the PRC side's experts, such a trade deficit amounts to approximately $3 billion, whereas the Seoul side is claiming it amounts to $740 million.

Seoul business representatives told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that such a discrepancy in the estimation of the trade deficit occurred as a result that Beijing included the volume of the mutual trade transactions which are carried out via Hong Kong. It was reportedly agreed that an in-depth discussion would be made on this issue at a trade ministerial-level meeting between the two sides which would be held in Seoul this fall.

Chernomyrdin Reassures Guests Over Iran Deal

LD1505193295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1809 GMT 15 May 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 15 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin welcomed the idea of building a museum of the Holocaust in Moscow.

In his meeting with the leaders of Russian and American Jewish organisations in Moscow on Monday, Chernomyrdin supported their initiative to commemorate two million Soviet Jews murdered by the Nazis during World War II.

The premier met the idea "warmly and with understanding," government spokesman Valentin Sergeyev said on Monday.

In turn, the American guests, who have considerable influence in the U.S. state and financial circles, pledged to press for lifting the Jackson-Vanik amendment and admitting Russia to the World Trade Organisation.

Sergeyev said the prime minister issued the necessary orders to consider the proposals concerning the opening of a museum, adding that no incidents of discrimination against Jews in Russia were mentioned during the meeting.

Chernomyrdin dispelled the American guests' concerns about Russia's trade deal with Iran, saying that "Iran is our neighbour, not of the United States, and we are not interested in transferring military nuclear technologies to it."

"As for weapons, the largest portion of the weapons sold to the Arab countries are made in the U.S.," he added.

In an interview with Itar-Tass, Russia's chief rabbi Adolf Shayevich, chairman of the Congress of Jewish Religious Communities, said the American guests presented the premier with a list of three Jews who had been lately detained in Russia — Nelli Bogatyreva, detained by unidentified persons in Chechnya, Semyon Livshits, in Vladivostok's jail since April 1995, and Mikhail Finkel arrested on charges of espionage.

The rabbi said this was the first time he heard about this, while the premier promised to look into it.

Commission To Discuss Iran Specialist Training

LD1505182995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 15 (Interfax) — Russia will submit the issues of Iranian nuclear specialists' training in Russia and the future of spent nuclear fuel to the sitting of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission on the construction contract for a nuclear power plant in Iran, head of the public relations department of the Russian Nuclear Ministry Georgiy Kaurov told Interfax on Monday.

In his words, Iranian specialists will be trained to operate a light-water nuclear reactor of the VVER type, to be assembled at the nuclear power plant in Bushehr.

No documents on their training have yet been signed by Iran or Russia. The contract with Iran provides solely for the construction of a power unit.

"Specialists will have to be trained to operate Russian-made equipment anyway, bearing in mind the Nuclear Ministry is planning to conclude more contracts with Iran on the construction of another three power units with light-water reactors," said Kaurov.

In his words, the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission will also have to decide on the future of spent nuclear fuel. There are two options: either Russia will take the fuel for processing, or it will be stored in Iran under IAEA control.

Ilyukhin: Iran Nuclear Pact 'Must Be Honored'

LD1505182895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1720 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 15 (Interfax) — The Russian-Iranian agreement to supply light-water nuclear reactors to Iran must be honored, chairman of the State Duma's Security Committee Viktor Ilyukhin of the Communist Party said.

He described as humiliating the situation in which the future of that contract was linked with the opinion of the United States.

"Russia is a sovereign state and it has the right to choose who to do business with and what to sell, except for items banned by international treaties and agreements, including those on the non-proliferation of nuclear arms", Ilyukhin said.

He recalled that the contract provided for the supply of civil technologies and equipment and warned that if Russia dropped the contract, Iran would buy everything it needs from China, while Russia would sustain heavy financial losses.

U.S. Commentators Criticize Clinton's Performance

MM1505161495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 May 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "A Four-Zero Defeat Recorded for Clinton. A Hail of Criticism Descends on the U.S. President After the Moscow Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — If the hail of critical evaluations had been a meteorological hail, President Clinton's plane would have landed not in the capital, but at some emergency airfield. He in fact flew out to Moscow on a pretty bumpy political ride. The subsequent days did not bring cloudless skies. And his reception back home was positively stormy.

Scorning the unwritten rules, Senator Bob Dole, the main contender for the White House from the Republican Party, belabored the President with trenchant reproaches even before his return to his native land. "I do not think that when I am abroad I am in a position in which I am obliged to reply to anyone who criticizes me at home," Bill Clinton said with deceptive meekness to the reporters who accompanied him in his plane. But he at once added: "I have achieved success. My policy toward Russia has been conducted correctly."

Clinton also said that he found a strong debater in Yeltsin. And, although Yeltsin "has been conducting affairs incorrectly in connection with the uprising in Chechnya," he did not show himself either bombastic or "playing the anti-American card," despite the difficult times Russia is experiencing in politics and the economy. "He was cordial and reasoned clearly and very openly," the U.S. President said.

Clinton stressed that his visit had brought Russia nearer to cooperation with NATO and had also made possible the cancellation of a dangerous component of the Russian-Iranian nuclear deal. Together with the coordinated measures to combat terrorism and organized crime, this had "increased our security," the President said.

However, the President's judgment of his own policy was virtually the only piece of praise thast it received. Even newspapers renowned for their tolerance rushed to give over their pages to implacable critics of Clinton's Russian policy.

"Bill Clinton badly represented American interests in Moscow" — THE NEW YORK TIMES' prestigious commentator William Safire began his analysis of the news with these words. In Safire's opinion, Yeltsin won this match with a score of four-zero. The Russian insisted on his own version of the deal with Iran, persuaded his partner of the need to revise the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Weapons in Europe, sustained his position on the war in Chechnya, and successfully opposed the development of a regional antimissile system in the United States.

Henry Kissinger's article in THE WASHINGTON POST was one of the most thorough attacks on the fundamentals of the current administration's Russian policy. The gist of it is contained in the following sentence:

"One of the amusing peculiarities of the leaders who grew up in the years of the protest movement against the Vietnam war is that their obsession to leave behind Cold War categories shuts them up within the confines of Cold War debates."

For those to whom this argument seems too academic, the author at once provides a simplified interpretation. The crude mistake of Clinton and his colleagues is the desire "to win Russia round, instead of opposing it," and also the obsolete opinion according to which "relations between Washington and Moscow are seen as the cornerstone of the United States' European, if not its global, policy." "Russia," Kissinger says further on, "is too embryonic and formless to serve as the anchor of U.S. foreign policy."

Kissinger considers that the five-year timetable for including Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, and Slovakia in NATO to be too long-winded. Assurances given to Moscow that Russia could itself one day be accepted into NATO are naive. "There is not a single one of Russia's Western neighbors who does not think that to invite Russia to join NATO is tantamount to inviting the wolf to shear the sheep."

"A president's seriousness and maturity in the conduct of foreign policy are demonstrated in his willingness to display intractability," W. Safire of THE NEW YORK TIMES, writes in this connection. "We saw this so clearly in the cold expression of Reagan, who said 'do svidaniye' to Gorbachev in Iceland." However, Clinton and his restless advisers make out that the summit was a success, although they know that it was a failure."

And B. Clinton's success over the gas centrifuges which were supposedly intended for sale to Iran, but were later excluded from the deal, is presented positively ironically over here. The U.S. President, his compatriots scoff, was simply taken for a ride. No one in Russia ever intended to sell them to Iran.

Confirmation of New CIA Director Deutch Noted

MM1505153395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 95 p 2

[Report Nadein report: "America's Spy Chief Elected Unanimously by Senators"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — America's 17th spy chief crossed the threshold of his HQ on Thursday morning. Spy chief is what the press calls the post to which John Deutch had been confirmed by unanimous vote in the Senate the day before.

Prior to his appointment as CIA director Deutch was deputy defense secretary. He made no secret of the fact that he did not aspire to the post of CIA boss, but he accepted it under pressure from President Clinton. Nor does he hide his intention to bring a new group of staffers with him from the Pentagon.

CIA headquarters, which is located in extensive wooded grounds on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, has long been afflicted with anxious foreboding. The exposure of Soviet and, subsequently, Russian agent Aldrich Ames brought a storm of criticism down upon the CIA. James Woolsey, Deutch's predecessor, was in no way involved in any complicity with the staffer who sold out to the KGB for several million dollars. However, he was forced to resign, as he proved incapable of carrying out a thoroughgoing clearout of the CIA.

Although John Deutch said in passing during an interview after his confirmation that he does not intend to carry out any bloodletting in the main intelligence agency, specialists contend that the creation of a "new generation" of CIA agents will be the new director's chief task. Moreover, this will be a far-from-easy task, as Deutch foresees a hostile reception from CIA old-timers, "at least to start with."

The CIA has had its ups and downs. In Robert McNamara's recently published memoirs the former defense secretary claims that the CIA constantly warned the country's leadership and President Lyndon Johnson, in particular, of the impossibility of winning a war in far-off Indochina. This was done notwithstanding the standpoint prevailing in the White House and demanded a certain courage.

On the other hand, the CIA brought disgrace upon itself with its forecast of developments in Iran, where Shah Reza Pahlavi was overthrown, and even more so in respect of the Soviet Union. The CIA exaggerated the USSR's might, miscalculated its military expenditure, and arrogantly dismissed experts' opinions if they did not coincide with the agency's line. The collapse of the USSR caught both the CIA and the upper echelons of U.S. power unawares.

Soon after the exposure of Ames, who was sentenced to life imprisonment, a special presidential team was set up by decision of Bill Clinton to study the state of affairs in the CIA and to draw up recommendations for reform. John Deutch has said that he will launch the reforms without waiting for the completion of that group's work.

The new director maintained links with a number of Russian generals during the period of his work in the Defense Department. He has advocated expanding links between the two biggest armies on the planet. U.S.-Russian intergovernmental agreements envisage cooperation between the two countries in fighting terrorism and international crime. This is in no way at variance with the new CIA director's personal views.

Deutch Appointment To 'Boost' CIA Operations

MM1505132595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 May 95 First Edition p 7

[Report by Vladimir Silkin: "CIA 'New Broom'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago the U.S. Senate ratified the U.S. President's candidate for the post of CIA director. He is John Deutch, the former U.S. deputy defense secretary.

John Deutch was born 27 July 1938 in Brussels (Belgium). In 1946 he became a U.S. citizen. He took a science doctorate at the University of Massachusetts. He has been U.S. deputy energy secretary and deputy defense secretary.

He is married with three children.

Apart from him W. Crowe, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now U.S. ambassador to Britain, was suggested for this post along with the influential Republican Senator W. Rudman. Despite such strong competition preference was nonetheless given to J. Deutch; his candidacy won virtually unanimous support from both the Senate Intelligence Committee and the Senate itself. And that is no coincidence.

As deputy defense secretary J. Deutch repeatedly came into contact with the activity of the U.S. intelligence service. In particular with former CIA Director J. Woolsey he conducted studies into fundamental intelligence problems, including a study into the effectiveness of the photographic and electronic eavesdropping programs, which "gobble up" almost a third of the budget appropriations for defense. Thus, J. Deutch has a very direct idea of the activity of the "cloak and dagger merchants."

Nonetheless, I do not think that this played the principal role in his appointment. In the Army J. Deutch proved himself a smart, energetic leader. Now he has to restore order in the intelligence service, which is in a state of shock and still experiencing a period of "disorder and vacillation." Langley analysts think that their department is now at a crossroads and that it is necessary to formulate a new concept for the activity of the intelligence service, its future makeup, and the tasks facing the CIA in the 21st century.

Some outlines have already emerged in certain statements made by J. Deutch. He promised to strengthen morale among career intelligence officers and considerably rejuvenate CIA leadership personnel, at the same time enhancing staffers' responsibility for their actions and mistakes. Speaking at the Senate Intelligence Committee hearings, the new Langley chief said: "I do not agree with those who contend that with the end of the Cold War there is no longer any need to secretly gather intelligence information.

"Russia and the other republics of the former Soviet Union are only entering on the road of democracy and market reform. At best we should expect there to be a lot of stops and sometimes inconsistent moves on this road."

The fact that the Americans have no intention of confining themselves to expectations is illustrated by their obtaining secret documents regarding Russia's nuclear deal with Iran. They cited certain passages in these documents during talks with the Russian foreign minister and the State Duma speaker. One can cite numerous cases of the CIA's gathering secret intelligence information on Russian territory. There is every indication that this activity will receive an additional boost with the new director's arrival.

Yushenkov Favors Associate Membership in NATO

LD1505154095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Dmitriy Borisov] According to U.S. President Bill Clinton, his Russian colleague Boris Yeltsin said last week in Moscow that Russia was ready to start implementing the NATO Partnership for Peace program. Though Yeltsin himself has not yet confirmed this, there has been much discussion. Sergey Yushenkov [State Duma defense committee chairman] even called a special news conference today.

[Begin Sergey Yushenkov recording, identified by caption] In my view, NATO expansion could equally serve to restore the usual system of international relations or to bring about a fundamentally new model of international relations. Everything depends on what role Russia would be given. [end recording]

[Borisov] Yushenkov said that no state in Eastern Europe apart from the Czech Republic met NATO's requirements. But Yushenkov said that since the break up of the Warsaw Pact, NATO has been more a structure providing security in Europe than a military organization and that it was therefore worth developing cooperation.

[Begin Yushenkov recording] Russia should join NATO as an associate member. [end recording]

[Borisov] This, Yushenkov believes, would help avoid a return to the military confrontation with the West so ruinous for Russia and would help ease considerably both NATO's and Russia's relations with Eastern European countries striving to join the alliance.

Nuclear Nonproliferation Conference Viewed

MM1605103895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 May 95 First Edition p 15

[Article by Vadim Alekseyev: "Signed — and a Burden Is Lifted From Our Shoulders"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Even before the start of the conference in New York no one had any doubts that the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons would be signed on the terms of the "nuclear five." Observers were more interested in two other questions: How this would happen and whether the contradictions between the "nuclear five" and the "intransigents" would be retained or intensified. The answer to these questions made it possible to judge the treaty's stability. To all appearances our forecast that the treaty will be signed has been justified but essentially it will not be fulfilled. [passage omitted]

We should note two features of the conference in New York. Its course was mainly concealed from the public since it took place in corridors, committees, and cafes, as a result of which there were few commentaries. Second, the majority of the participants failed to understand how the voting took place — after all there was no secret or open ballot, nor was the mechanism for reaching consensus switched on. Nonetheless the treaty was signed and extended indefinitely. That forced Egypt to issue a special statement noting that the decision to extend the treaty indefinitely was made without a vote and stressing: "The treaty cannot be permanent unless it is truly worldwide with no exceptions." Thus although the treaty was signed questions remained. [passage omitted]

The "nuclear five" thus managed to get the other states to confirm their monopoly status indefinitely. That is the first positive result of the conference. The New York forum also decided that the "nuclear five" can pass on to nonnuclear countries the technology for constructing nuclear electric power stations. In fact this provision puts a legal basis to the Russian-Iranian deal on the construction of a nuclear power station.

On the other points the differences between the signatories of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty went underground for a while. Moreover, some experts believe that the New York conference is the beginning of the end for the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons since it did not manage to decide the main thing — making the treaty universal.

'Common Sense' Prevails in Extending NPT

MM1505154495 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 13 May 95 Saturday Edition p 3

[Report by Ilya Baranikas: "Nonproliferation Treaty Extended"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — The international conference on the question of extending the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) at UN headquarters in New York has ended. In the course of almost a month the most diverse and often opposed views regarding whether the treaty should be extended and, if so, for how long have been expressed from the UN platform. Despite the differences of opinion, those supporting the NPT's indefinite extension — Russia among them — eventually managed to mobilize a majority sufficient for the adoption of a decision making the treaty valid indefinitely.

The breakthrough in favor of this decision came back on 5 May, when 108 of the treaty's 178 member-states put their signatures to a draft resolution proposed by Canada. But it was then decided to attempt to reach a consensus — a general agreement — and the final resolution's adoption was postponed.

However, unanimity did not increase, but decreased. Two days before the conference ended North Korea stated that it would refuse to participate in the adoption of the final documents because certain countries "are using the conference against the DPRK." While a delegation of 14 Near East countries supported an alternative draft resolution proposed by Egypt containing the demand that Israel "join the Nonproliferation Treaty without delay and place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) control."

In the end common sense prevailed. The compromise reached at the conference envisages the treaty's indefinite extension but with regular — every five years — interim reviews. Treaty observance monitoring procedures are being tightened up — the IAEA will carry out (or at least will try to carry out) inspections even in those countries which are not NPT participants but which are suspected of possessing nuclear weapons. It is primarily Israel, India, and Pakistan which fall into this category. (There is also a handful of states which do not participate in the treaty, for example the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Djibouti). But the text of the adopted resolution makes no mention of Israel or other "dissenting countries."

Because there were many reproaches directed at industrialized powers to the effect that "rich countries" do not want to share peaceful nuclear technology with "poor" countries and are thereby retarding their development, the following decision was adopted: to legalize the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes by all countries without any discrimination. The U.S. news agency UPI notes that this situation regarding the final resolution is in striking contrast to the U.S. attempts to prevent the sale by China and Russia of nuclear technology to Iran. UPI stresses the importance of nuclear technology for such sectors of the economy as power engineering, medicine, agriculture, etc.

As is well known, the question of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons has lately become a problem in Russian-U.S. relations because of the deal between Russia and Iran for the delivery of two nuclear reactors. This problem was vigorously discussed during Bill Clinton's recent visit to Russia. The U.S. President found out about the NPT's indefinite extension when he was in Kiev — the capital of a country which last year, after both the United States and Russia had put prolonged pressure on it, agreed to sign the NPT and relinquish possession of these weapons. Speaking in Kiev, Clinton stated that the treaty's indefinite extension makes the lives of Americans and other peoples throughout the world safer and "opens a new, more encouraging chapter in our history."

Thus five countries — Russia, the United States, Britain, France, and China — still remain "legal" possessors of nuclear weapons. These states, which are customarily called great powers, (although certain other countries object to this) bear special responsibility for the world's fate. So far the concentration of the nuclear potential in their hands has helped to avoid a nuclear catastrophe. The adoption of the resolution to extend the NPT indefinitely gives grounds to hope that this will continue to be the case.

Yeltsin Congratulates Belarusian President

LD1605101895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 16 May 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW May 16 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a brief message to Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on Tuesday in connection with the success of the Sunday referendum.

He expressed satisfaction that "resolving questions of their domestic constitutional system, Belarusians supported, at the same time, a course for integration with Russia", the Russian president's assistant on international affairs Dmitriy Ryurikov said in an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass here on Tuesday.

According to the president's assistant, "the results of the Sunday referendum confirmed that the efforts of the Russian and Belarusian leaderships in favour of further integration meet understanding and support from Byelorussian population".

According to earlier reports, the majority of Belarusian citizens who participated in the Sunday referendum, proposed by President Lukashenka, approved economic rapprochement with Russia.

Citizens of the republic supported the head of state on all the four questions put on the referendum.

"This is an absolutely objective process," Ryurikov stressed. "The fact that so great numbers of poll participants voiced support for integration, creates a very good psychological background to continue efforts by the leaderships of the two countries for further economic rapprochement."

Turning to prospects for specific implementation of the Russian-Belarusian understandings, Ryurikov noted that "sure enough, the Russian customs borders have not yet shifted to the border between Poland and Belarus.

"It is necessary to make some moves for united customs space between Russia and Belarus to become a reality." "But this is a thing of the near future," the president's assistant stressed.

Belarus Poll Results Mark 'Unifying Process'

MM1605132095 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 95 p 1

[Report by Oleg Stepanenko: "Union Will Be Revived in Belarus. Referendum Brings Victory for Supporters of Integration"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minsk — Of the 4.8 million people who participated in the referendum (64.5 percent of registered voters) 82.4 percent voted for economic integration with Russia; 83.1 percent voted in favor of Russian as a state language on a par with Belarusian, and 75 percent favored the adoption of new state symbols. These are preliminary data supplied by the Central Electoral Commission.

It is now clear that an event has taken place in the territory of the former Soviet Union which may and should be a turning point in the destiny of tens of million of people left floundering amid poverty and strife. It is the start of a real unifying process based on the soundest legal foundation — the expression of the people's will. The fact that this process has begun with Belarus is obviously predetermined. Politicians disinclined to be fatalistic were right when they forecast that the criminal act of "liquidating" the Union was perpetrated here in Belarus, and it is here, in Belarus, that its revival will start. Of course, to a large extent they were thinking of the calm, reasonable Belarusians (I mean no offense to other peoples in saying this), and their inner strength and inflexibility, which have been demonstrated more than once over the centuries when the Fatherland has been in difficulty.

The new symbols were adopted to a large extent also because they match almost completely the state symbols of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. Almost the same flag with two horizontal stripes — red and green — and with a Belarusian ornamental design in a vertical stripe next to the pole. And almost the same peace-loving coat of arms — a globe framed by ears of wheat, with a red star on top. The people have made it clear to the politicians what kind of symbols and what kind of union they want, and on what basis. [passage omitted]

Army Daily Comments on Inter-Tajik Talks

MM1605101595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 May 95 p 3

[Article by Vitaliy Strugovets: "Government Troops and Russian Border Guards Are Fighting on Two Fronts in Tajikistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last weekend the situation intensified sharply not only on the Tajik-Afghan border but also inside the republic. On the evening of 14 May a border post of the Moskovskiy Detachment's 12th Subunit was shelled by rockets from several directions at once. The news agency of Russia's Federal Border Service told us that one border guard — Sergeant Khamza Shomakhmalov — died, and five were injured. The enemy was crushed by return artillery and helicopter fire and by reserve forces which were drawn up. On the same day a detail of the Pyandzh Detachment's 5th Subunit thwarted an attempt by a small group of gunmen to cross from Afghanistan to Tajikistan. One gunman was killed and one injured in the exchange of fire.

On 15 May opposition gunmen attacked a government troop post [blokpost] in Tajikistan's Komsomolabadskiy Rayon. According to data of the Republic of Tajikistan Ministry of Internal affairs, a policeman and five internal troop servicemen died. The gunmen's presumed location has now been surrounded, and intensive combing is under way.

Let us recall that this was the second instance in the past week of an armed attack on internal troop subunits by opposition gunmen who regard themselves as belonging to the insurgent Garm underground. On the evening of 12 May a Tajik internal troop subunit was shelled while driving in two trucks along the mountain route from Dzhirgatal to Gari. One serviceman fell victim to that act of terrorism, and seven were hospitalized with injuries of varying degrees.

Thus, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's forecasts that another "show of force by the opposition" should be expected on the eve of the Kabul meeting between President Emomali Rakhmonov of the Republic of Tajikistan and Said Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Movement for the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan, have been realized. On both sides of the Pyandzh, moreover.

As for the fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks, which are to take place in Almaty 22 May, their opening will most likely be postponed until a later date. For "technical" reasons. The UN secretary general's special representative for a settlement in Tajikistan — Ramiro Piriz-Ballon — has not yet been to Almaty, although he is obliged to familiarize himself with the meeting's venue.

Russia's stand on the situation in Tajikistan was clearly set forth by Albert Chernyshev, Russian deputy minister of foreign affairs, in talks with the Kyrgyz minister of foreign affairs 15 May. He pointed out that the situation within and around Tajikistan is complex. Just one way out of it is possible — all the Central Asian countries, Russia, and the Commonwealth must give Tajikistan all possible economic, political, and military assistance. Tajikistan's border is the southern border of the whole CIS, and we are obliged to take measures to defend it.

In addition, Albert Chernyshev emphasized, it must be pointed out that a process of political development is under way in Tajikistan itself. A referendum has been held, parliament has been created, and the president has been elected — we see movement toward democracy, and this inspires confidence. It is now in the interests of the countries of the region to do everything to establish peace and national accord between the sides in the conflict.

Gromov Visit to Crimea Presages New Russian Fleet

MK1605100095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 May 95 p 3

[Report by Yuriy Golotyuk under the "Visit" rubric: "Russian Navy Commander-in-Chief Announces Creation of a Russian Fleet on the Basis of Black Sea Fleet. It Remains Unclear What Portion of Black Sea Fleet Will Go to Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 11 May 1995, the Black Sea Fleet was visited by Admiral Feliks Gromov, Russian Navy commander-in-chief, with a retinue of Russian Federation Navy Main Staff officers. The main objective of the mysterious flash visit, as transpires from the joint Black Sea and Navy commands press release, was "to study the situation at the fleet, to look for ways to resolve its problems." Planned during the visit were the commander-in-chief's meetings with Black Sea Fleet staff chiefs, and with commanders of combined and other units. But, following his discussion with Black Sea Fleet Commander Adm. Eduard Baltin, Feliks Gromov narrowed down his itinerary to a tour of units and ships.

"In the admiral's view, the main problems of the Black Sea Fleet are to provide the fleet with normal conditions of basing and with corresponding coastal infrastructure," says the press release. It also points out that the commander-in-chief focused on the "question of providing amenities for servicemen of the units slated for disbandment." Here Feliks Gromov told journalists that his visit was connected with the creation on the basis of the existing Black Sea Fleet — with its dual subordination — of a Russian Federation fleet. Observers presume that a Russian Black Sea Fleet may be composed of the subunits and ships the commander-in-chief selected for his visits.

In the meantime, as Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuriy Dubinin has advised, a rough variant of division of the Black Sea Fleet has been prepared, under which 80 percent of the watercraft will be owned by Russia, and 20 percent by Ukraine. In Mr Dubinin's words, the signing of this document has been planned during Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Kiev. Before that the president of Russia is to sign the [draft] law on "A Moratorium on a Unilateral Reduction of the Black Sea Fleet" passed by the State Duma.

Thus, it has been known for a long time that there is no single position on the Black Sea Fleet problem in the Russian political leadership, but if Adm. Gromov s visit to Crimea is connected with the president's impending decisions, the phrase about "providing amenities for servicemen of the units slated for disbandment" is not quite clear. Nor is what guided those in the staff in selecting the units to be visited.

Judging from official reports, the two-month-old conflict between the Black Sea Fleet chiefs and the Russian Federation Naval Forces command has not proved fatal. The self-styled battleship Potemkin has not put out to sea after all. This despite the fact that the Black Sea Fleet council tried to oppose Moscow on the transfer to Ukraine's Navy of Russian units and subunits (including those subunits of the fleet based in Izmail and Ochakov.) Back in mid- April the Black Sea Fleet military council "voiced amazement that the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on dividing the fleet were continuing after the Russian Federation State Duma had declared a moratorium on a unilateral reduction of the Russian Black Sea Fleet." "Decisions affecting the fleet are being made abruptly, ships and subunits are being turned over to the Ukrainian Navy while no social security for servicemen is provided," the fleet's leadership stated at that time, and in actual fact refused to follow directives of their direct superiors.

Political Issues

Columnist Views Chernomyrdin Party Congress

MM1505103795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 95

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Party of Cabinets Declares Russia Is Our Home Open for Campaign Business: 'Chernomyrdin Bloc' Elects Chernomyrdin Leader"]

[FBIS Translated Text] From the morning of 12 May on, half of Druzhinnikovskaya Street in Moscow, where the All-Russia Cinematography Center is located, was sealed off by reinforced police detachments. Dozens of limousines with government number plates approached one after another the "stars'" entrance, depositing on this occasion Russia's political and economic leaders.

The congress of the Russia Is Our Home All-Russia sociopolitical movement was impressive by virtue of the unprecedentedly high-powered status of those attending such an event. They included Federal Government Vice Premiers O. Soskovets, Yu. Yarov, and S. Shakhray and well-known regional leaders like M. Shaymiyev, president of Tatarstan; A. Glazov, president of North Ossetia; and A. Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg. Guests included V. Ilyushin, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Secretariat; political leaders Ye. Gaydar, I. Khakamada, and A. Volskiy; leaders of the economy, bankers.... Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who chaired the presidium, was the last to enter the hall, escorted by numerous security guards.

It was clear from the very outset of the congress' work that no surprises in the form of splits or scandals were in store. All the speakers supported the movement's manifesto and its nominee as leader — Viktor Chernomyrdin — with such unanimity that at times it seemed as if you were present at a CPSU congress rather than a forum of advocates of reforms, which, in general, was unsurprising.

The 270 congress delegates represented around 80 Russian regions. These included governors, heads of administration (according to certain information, they were summoned to the congress by government directive), and the leaders of major industrial enterprises closely connected with government. Forty delegates were members of the congress organizational committee, that is to say, basically members of the government or its apparatus. Another 40 delegates were deputies representing progovernment associations recently formed in the Duma.

On the other hand, the movement's basic ideas, as articulated in Viktor Chernomyrdin's opening address, can scarcely raise objections among normal people. The slogans on the movement's banners read "Stability and Development, Democracy and Patriotism, Confidence and Order."

Judging by the way the congress went, it can be assumed that the newly formed movement will not run into any major organizational difficulties. Nor will there be any financial ones. (Incidentally, A. Golovkov, one of the congress organizers, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent that not a single kopek from the budget had been spent on organizing the event, including the hiring of the building or providing the lavish free buffet laid on for delegates, guests, and journalists. All expenses were borne by industrial giants like VAZ, GAZ, and the KamAZ Plant. In future, however, the movement's activity will be financed through membership subscriptions). The main problem was perhaps best captured by A. Sobchak, who stated that if you want to win the election it is not enough to have heads of administration and leaders of enterprises in your ranks, the main problem here is how to secure support for the movement from ordinary voters.

Thus 12 May saw the birth of a major political bloc in Moscow, a bloc unrivaled in terms of its potential financial and political opportunities. At the same time a figure has entered the country's political stage from the wings who has every reason to aspire to the role of national leader — Prime Minister Chernomyrdin.

But that may be the very factor which will produce certain problems for the just-created movement. The forum was not favored with a presidential greetings message, although previously such signs of attention were less significant to political associations. Nor did S. Filatov, chief of the Presidential Staff, attend.

Since it proved impossible to realize the idea of setting up a center-left bloc headed by I. Rybkin, the "Chernomyrdin party" has found itself without any counterbalancing force. As a result, the prime minister has grown so strong politically that he has begun to pose a real danger to the president himself. In confirmation of this it is possible to cite the statement made by Chernomyrdin a few days ago about his lack of plans to run for president. Such statements are, as people know, not made without cause. Therefore, it cannot be ruled out that the idea of setting up a two-party system in Russia will actually be carried through. Only this time the "party of power" ["partiya sily"] could become the rival to the "party of government" ["partiya vlasti"] born on 12 May. The power ministers did not, incidentally, take part in the congress.

'Disarray' in Chernomyrdin Bloc Examined

MM1605140395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 May 95 p 2

[Article by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "In the 'Russia Is Our Home' Bloc, Being a Member of the Government Does Not Sit Easily With Being a Member of a Party"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As this issue of IZVESTIYA is being signed to press, the "Russia's Democratic Choice" [RDC] Political Council expects to be examining the "Chubays affair." Political Council Member Sergey Yushenkov has informed IZVESTIYA that the majority in the RDC leadership intends to give the first vice premier a choice: Either he gives up participating in the nomenklatura bloc or he resigns as the party's number two.

The occupation by tenants of "Our Home," a politically well-appointed edifice — as befits those at the top — which opened for election business last Friday, has begun in great disarray. Certain vice premiers and ministers are declining the "occupancy permits," which do not simply guarantee the nomenklatura elite will be their electoral neighbors but actually prescribe it, as it were.

The artificial and contrived nature of this hastily erected party structure was obvious even on the drawing board. And what kind of idea unites, say, Vice Premiers Anatoliy Chubays and Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who are, moreover, members of opposing parties? What links Yevgeniy Yasin and Aleksandr Nazarchuk so strongly?

Seeking to combine like with unlike can only have disconcerted any voter with the slightest nous. And we have the following utter absurdity: As simultaneously a leader of the RDC and number two in the government, Anatoliy Chubays is, as it were, a member of two parties at the same time — the "party of ideas" and the "party of government" [partiya vlasti]. Here the first party does not simply find itself in opposition to the second — it cherishes and fosters its opposition nature, regarding it as the main guarantee of election victory. The same applies to Zaveryukha.

Now, during the election campaign period, political bigamy seems to be done with. Vice premiers and ministers have at last decided to clarify their tangled relationships with the parties, to which they are bound by "love," and with the government, to which they are joined by a "marriage of convenience."

Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR], said in an interview with IZVESTIYA that Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha and Agriculture Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk have withdrawn from Viktor Chernomyrdin's bloc, of which they have themselves informed the premier, and that high-ranking APR members will occupy fitting places on their own election list. The APR leader described his party members' action as an "act of civic courage."

Let us now return to Chubays. As Yegor Gaydar indicated earlier, the RDC and the "party of government" are divided by "the war in Chechnya, the suspension of military reform as a whole, the toughening up of the military service draft, and, in particular, the inflation of the state apparatus and lack of consistency in carrying out economic reforms."

Yegor Gaydar did not object to the builders of "Our Home" "buying whomever it could," he was even in favor, but the last person he had in mind here was his own party second in command. And Anatoliy Chubays himself, according to certain information to hand, is not inclined to tempt fate in the company of those at the top and seems to have agreed to beat a path toward a parliamentary seat in serried ranks with those who share his ideas.

The first vice premier is perhaps compelled to make this choice not so much by his party oath of allegiance as by level-headed calculation. The other day the work of the Chubays-inspired government commission investigating the causes of the fuel and energy crisis in Maritime Kray was essentially curtailed. It has become clear that its remit does not include — an unprecedented event — the auditing of Maritime Kray's financial activity. Administration Head Yevgeniy Nazdratenko has, in contrast, strengthened his position, becoming the "Russia Is Our Home" coordinator in the Far East. In conversation with your IZVESTIYA observer, Sergey Yushenkov said that he regarded what had happened as a "definite sign," one which will be followed, in his opinion, by others, heralding Chubays' impending ouster from government. Here Yushenkov noted that Chubays "maintains a strong position in the party," which he now has specially no reason to lose.

The party-cum-government status of yet another vice premier — Sergey Shakhray — is equally interesting. The Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRUA], which he heads, was created to provide support for the cabinet in the provinces. Now, however, when high-powered detachments of the Russia-wide administrative apparatus have been dispatched to neutralize the firing positions of the local opposition, the PRUA command can, with a sense of having done its duty, announce a general demobilization to its volunteers. This was stated by Aleksandr Shokhin, one of the PRUA's leaders, who quit the party the other day. Another member of the PRUA leadership, Aleksandr Kotenkov, has said that the party would like to have substantial guaranteed representation in the center-right bloc and that 150th place on the election list would not suit it. But what kind of place will there be there for PRUA activists after all the governors, all the captains of industry, and all the "big wheels" of business nurtured by the government take up their seats? Given such prospects for the party, Sergey Shakhray will have to storm the State Duma as the only solid and effective member of the "Our Home" leadership.

Such major government figures as Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin and Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov have not joined the elite bloc's council, although, according to a report by a member of the organizing committee, both are taking part in the implementation of the premier's plan.

Loyalty to the current government amid the "opposition," to which — for various reasons — the majority of Russian citizens belong today, is not the strongest suit in the election game. And this consideration will be taken into account by the owners and honored guests of "Our Home," whatever they may vow publicly.

...The following joke did the rounds when the CPSU and the Council of Ministers were the two-headed symbol of supreme Soviet leadership known as the "party and government." A hard-working individual, tempted by the party organization, plucked up courage and submitted an application: "I would like to be admitted as a member of the party and government." There are innumerable parties today. How to avoid miscalculating and join a party which enables you to be readmitted to the government six months hence is the conundrum taxing cabinet members' minds today. For all its administrative, financial, and organizational clout, the "party of government" is vulnerable when faced with the vagaries of a nationwide ballot, just as the government itself — specially the current Russian Government — can be vulnerable in the eyes of society. Therefore for the vice premiers and ministers it is, rather, not the refusal to occupy the "Our Home" edifice, but, on the contrary, even a temporary residence permit there which demonstrates an "act of civic courage

Founding 'Russia Is Our Home' Congress Viewed

MK1305093095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 May 95 pp 1,3

[Report by Natalya Arkhangelskaya: "They Begin To Build 'Our Home' From the Roof"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The founding congress of a "Russia Is Our Home" movement with Viktor Chernomyrdin as its head was held in Moscow yesterday. The delegates really glided through the entire agenda: They heard the premier's report and discussed it; passed a decree on creating the movement and its rules; elected a chairman and his two deputies, the movement's council and auditing commission; as well as made public a political declaration.

The entire event (including a recess for a buffet) lasted three and a half hours. Owing to fine organization it was rather tedious. It would have been strange to expect the contrary: influential officials, industrial directors, and financial elite members who clubbed together to form a formidable triumvirate, solve all moot questions in the quiet of their offices or dachas. The authorities cast aside the camouflage and openly stated their readiness to join the political tussle openly. A confidence in victory, which permeated the premier's address, has a leg to stand on: A "party of power" has always been the favorite in Russia. [passage omitted]

As they were preparing the congress, its organizers repeatedly stressed that their main objective was to create a "shell" of the movement which would be filled with specific content later. The adopted apparatus methods which helped them move swiftly, however, lost them some quality. Many people know that State Duma deputies cowed by the abundance of nomenklatura in the movement's leading bodies were reluctant to agree to attend as voting delegates, preferring the noncommittal status of guests. Four groups — [Duma factions] "Stability," PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord], "New Regional Policy," and "Russia" — were asked to participate in the congress as delegates. Not more than half of the two latter groups were in attendance, and even Shakhray's PRES, which was billed as the movement's nucleus, did not make a final decision on joining "Our House." Aleksandr Kotenkov, member of the PRES leadership, has told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the "party wants guarantees, and it will not of course agree to take the 150th position on the list." PRES' fears are not unfounded: The original wording of the rules did not include the principle of collective membership which would have enabled the bloc's potential partners to uphold their interests. This implied that the parties that agree to join the movement were doomed to becoming completely dissolved in it. The final wording of the rules includes the collective membership provision. But then the situation inside PRES has worsened to the extreme: KOMMERSANT-DAILY has come to learn that Aleksandr Shokhin, the second-most important person in the party, announced, during yesterday's sitting of the party leadership, that he has quit it. [passage omitted]

One of the main preoccupations for the journalists accredited at the congress was to find out whose money was used to rent the cozy premises of the Kinotsentr [Cinema Center] and cater a smorgasbord complete with pineapples. A suspicion that this money comes from the public treasury was literally blowing in the wind. In the course of a spontaneous press conference, however, the "Our Home" leader resolutely brushed aside this piece of slander, stating that the movement footed all the bills. If you scan through the list of the "Russia is Our Home" council members, the striking thing is that among them are more than 10 directors of the biggest Russian enterprises and commercial banks. I might cite two: "Gazprom" President Vyakhirev and "Olbi" concern Vice President Grebennikov. Also seen in the wings were the heads of "LogoVAZ," "Mikrodin," Tokobank, "Menatep," Promradtekhbank, and so on.

One would think the tactless question of money could be considered closed, but people in the know say that coming to Moscow shortly before the congress to "seek advice" about his part in the movement was Orel Oblast administration head Yegor Stroyev, who originally served as a CPSU Central Committee secretary and who still remains a relentless critic of the federal authorities. He left the capital taking away 10 billion for the needs of the oblast. At the congress, Stroyev was elected member of the "Russia is Our Home" council member.

Yeltsin Role in Centrist Blocs' Formation Viewed

MM1205160395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 95 p 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "From the History of Large Bloc Party Building"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The idea of banking on a "party of power" in the election strategy cropped up in the presidential structures last fall, after S. Filatov's and G. Satarov's lengthy efforts to unite democratic forces in a single bloc and create a centrist propresidential party failed. Contacts with representatives of the "Russia's Choice," "Democratic Russia," PRES, the "12 December" and "Yabloko" factions, and certain others revealed a common pattern: Despite these political groupings' similar views, the leaders' personal ambitions turned out to be an insuperable obstacle. Then attention switched to the existing hierarchy of executive authority, which was under their political, financial, and organizational control.

We also know for sure who was behind this idea. Above all, presidential assistant G. Satarov, who is responsible for work with parties and factions in parliament. He presented a complete model for the creation of two electoral blocs headed by well-known public and political figures to the president in the last 10 days of March. As it happens, hard on his heels, on 27 March to be precise, a model of a similar nature was presented to the president by S. Shakhray, who, by force of circumstances, is effectively the chief ideologist in V. Chernomyrdin's cabinet. He embarked in this job on the basis of his own interests — to enhance his own party's prestige and bring into it influential people from the regions.

Your IZVESTIYA correspondent has managed to establish that B. Yeltsin was a long time responding to these proposals. He worked on the documents during his break in Sochi, waited for the resolution of the lengthy dispute over the draft laws on elections to the lower and upper chambers of parliament, and sought the right names for the future blocs. But in order not to lose valuable time for the formation of election structures he finally made a decision. Immediately on his return from Sochi he invited I. Rybkin and V. Chernomyrdin to come and see him. For reasons of confidentiality, the meeting took place with only one other person present — the president's principal assistant, V. Ilyushin. They accepted the president's offer to head the election blocs without any objections.

On 25 April V. Chernomyrdin officially announced his plans to head an election bloc. This practice of using state structures in election campaigns is not new and does not contravene any legal norms. The technique of participation in the elections is another matter. Whereas other political forces only have their own organizational components to rely on in the election battle and can only acquire sponsorship funds stipulated by the law, the so-called "party of power" has its hands on the budgets (federal and regional). It can secretly use the enormous technical and other potential of the state, including the power departments and special services and taxpayers' money in its own interests — which places those bidding for power at a disadvantage. Finally, a victory for the "party of power" would inevitably result in nomenklatura purges at all levels of government.

Recently we have learned that V. Chernomyrdin's and I. Rybkin's blocs can scarcely expect an influx of forces from outside, with the exception of trade unions in the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia. The democratic parties have said that they will fight alone in the elections. The Communists, Agrarians, "Women of Russia," and the blocs that are taking shape under S. Glazyev and former chief of the Presidential Staff Yu. Petrov have also announced that they will be playing their own game.

Gaydar, Yavlinskiy To Form Single Election Bloc

LD1405205695 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 14 May 95

["Studio discussion" with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, head of the Yavlinskiy Bloc, and Yegor Gaydar, head of the

Russia's Choice, by announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev; from the "Itogi" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted: introduction] [Kiselev] I would like to ask you both to comment on the statement made the other day when the Democratic Russia party invited you to unite; that is, that Yabloko [Yavlinskiy Bloc] and Russia's Choice should unite and set up a single electoral association of democratic forces, a single bloc of democratic forces to counterbalance a bloc of nomenclature and a bloc of communists and nationalist patriots. What is your view of this idea? Are democratic forces capable of uniting, in general?

[Yavlinskiy] I will speak about this, with your permission. Generally speaking, to play at blocs is puerile stuff. One should not think that if Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin has set up a bloc, everybody should immediately rush to set up blocs, too. In our view, a totally different strategy is needed. Today we should identify a candidate to the post of president from democratic forces, a corresponding head of government, key members of this government, a program for legislative work in the parliament, and the main features of a presidential program. It is with this that we should approach both parliamentary and presidential elections. It should be a single process that should start now rather than six months later, because there will be no time left then. Thirteen months is a minimum term to carry out this task. So this is the only way to respond to all the events and today's challenges because, in actual fact, three major political forces will join political struggle. One of them will represent the past, the other, which we mentioned at the beginning of today's program, will represent today's situation, and the third force believes that our tomorrow should be different.

[Kiselev] Within the framework of the idea you are voicing now, provided it is supported by Gaydar and his party, are you prepared to unite with them?

[Yavlinskiy] It is for this purpose precisely that I am voicing for it to be discussed with all partners. A president cannot be elected from only a narrow circle of persons.

[Kiselev] Is it for the first time now that you hear Grigoriy Alekseyevich Yavlinskiy's proposal or has it been discussed earlier?

[Gaydar] It is for the first time that I hear it in this wording. But I must say that I regard it as sensible and constructive. I can say we are prepared to hold immediate consultations to try to find common decisions on these issues. I am convinced ... [pauses] Yes, we differ on many things, and at one time, we had different views of different issues. The majority of our differences, however, fell on 1991 or 1992, whereas now, on key issues such as the war in Chechnya, the attitude to the militarization of our society, the replacement of military reform with the conscription of students, longer army service, corruption in the state apparatus, or the absence of (?constitutional) reforms, we are drawing increasingly closer to each other on all these issues today. I am convinced we must be together at the next elections, and in this case we have a serious chance not to give the country away either to the extremists or those who have found too cosy a place in it and occasionally confuse their private interests with those of the state. [passage omitted]

Democratic Russia Party Proposes Election Bloc

LD1205163095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1430 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW May 12 (Itar-Tass) — Democratic Russia party, the successor to the movement of the same name, suggested that parties and movements of democratic nature form an election bloc to oppose the "blocs of nomenklatura, nationalists and communists".

The leadership of Democratic Russia made this proposal to Yegor Gaydar's party Russia's Democratic Choice and to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's movement Yabloko.

The address whose copy was transmitted to Itar-Tass on Friday suggests forming a bloc "on a basis of parity".

Gorbachev Confirms Intention To Run for Presidency

AU1605095695 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 16 May 95 p 1

[Report by "fm": "Mikhail Gorbachev Wants To Become Russian President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] St. Petersburg/Vienna — "I want to run for the president's office," Mikhail Gorbachev, last head of state of the USSR, told DER STANDARD at the weekend [13-14 May]. The discussions during a symposium on "10 Years of Perestroyka" in St. Petersburg encouraged him in his decision to run for the highest office in Russia in next year's elections, he said.

Gorbachev will not get any support from Russian reform politician and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. Gorbachev "is the hero of perestroyka, which he initiated 10 years ago," Sobchak said in an interview with DER STANDARD. "Today we are plagued by other problems. The Soviet Union is over and done with. Russia, its economic health, its security, and its free future are at issue. New methods and new men are required for it."

Sobchak himself rules out his candidacy in the Russian presidential elections. He wants to continue his work in St. Petersburg and "develop" the city with its 5 million inhabitants "into a European economic and cultural center."

In Sobchak's opinion, the old communists do not have a chance. Zhirinovskiy is also falling back in polls, while the reformers meet with increasing approval, he said.

Bolsheviks To Call Congress, Politicize Activities

MK1305121095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 May 95 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev under the "Dethronement" rubric: "St. Petersburg's Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) Is Deprived of Powers for Having Deviated From 'Revolutionary Activity.' The New Central Committee Will Take Care of 'The Second Edition of the Socialist Revolution.'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nina Andreyeva has been deprived of her powers — together with all other members of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) [VKP(b)] which she had created and headed [Andreyeva also gained a measure of fame in the late eighties with a prominent article condemning reform].

This information was given to Moscow journalists, at a special press conference, by Aleksandr Lapin, leader of Moscow's communists-Bolsheviks, who is now heading the organizing committee, after having been entrusted the day before in the Moscow area with all of the Central Committee's powers "for the period until an extraordinary congress is convened." According to Mr. Lapin, this decision has been made in strict conformity with party rules and has been prompted by the fact that the Central Committee "has distorted the VKP(b)'s work," by "deviating from revolutionary activity."

In this connection, Mr. Lapin chose to remind all the communists — via journalists — that they should be "neither Trotskyist nor a religious sect," but a "revolutionary party of the working class," the task of which has already been formulated by the Bolsheviks: "the second edition of the socialist revolution" in order to overthrow "restored capitalism." And for the proletariat to imbibe this task, the extraordinary congress, in Mr. Lapin's mind, should orient its supporters to practical actions, i.e., to "politicize, as much as possible, the strikes" and all other activities of an economic character among working people, "trade union members, and students."

To attain this goal, the organizing committee's head stressed, the Bolsheviks are free to use "any forms and methods of work." Mr. Lapin has no doubts that his party will succeed for the second time in history, since, according to his observations, the idea of socialism has become attractive for the new generation ("Gorbachevism arose when they were five to 10 years old"), which does not remember the "former socialism."

In addition, Mr. Lapin expressed his conviction that the VKP(b)'s extraordinary congress, which is to convene before the end of this year, will decide to take part in the parliamentary election. In single-seat constituencies, as journalists were told, the Bolsheviks are already counting on success. Mr. Lapin illustrated this hope by the results of local elections: In the city of Novomoskovsk of Tula Oblast, as the Bolsheviks' new leader assured, there are five VKP(b) members out of 15 members of the legislative assembly.

Yeltsin Streamlines Coordination of Draft Edicts

MM1205151395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 May 95 First Edition p 4

[Russian presidential edict No. 436 "On Adding to the Russian President's Edict No. 1185 of 10 June 1994 'On Ensuring Collaboration Between the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation,'" signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 3 May 1995, followed by commentary by Aleksandr Ivanov, under the general heading: "Streamlining the Draft Law Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the need to shorten the time taken to coordinate draft acts of the president of the Russian Federation by the Government of the Russian Federation, I decree:

1. That the Russian presidential edict No. 1185 of 10 June 1994 "On Ensuring Collaboration Between the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, no. 7, p 697) be amended, adding a point 3 worded as follows:

"3. Draft edicts and directives of the Russian president relating to questions within the jurisdiction of the Russian Government and coordinated according to the prescribed procedure with the relevant ministries and other federal organs of executive power are to be sent to the Russian Government on the instructions of the Russian president or the written instruction of the chief of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff. The relevant draft acts of the Russian president are to be examined by the Russian Federation Government within no more than five days of the receipt of the relevant draft.

"With the written consent of the chief of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff and the leader of the Russian Federation Government Apparatus, the period for the coordination of draft edicts and directives of the Russian president may be extended to 15 days."

2. Points 3, 4, and 5 of the Russian presidential edict No. 1185 of 10 June 1994 "On Ensuring Collaboration Between the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation" are to be renumbered as points 4, 5, and 6.

3. This edict enters into force the day it is signed.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

The Kremlin, Moscow
3 May 1995

Commentary

The presidential edict which is added to above was published in accordance with the constitutional powers of the Russian president and government and concerns relations between the head of state and the government.

The introductory section of the president's edict of 10 June 1994 speaks of the need to retain the practice whereby the chairman of the government systematically briefs the Russian president on the government's work. In addition, the text of the aforementioned edict notes that in accordance with the Social Accord Treaty the legislative work plans of the president and the government are to be formed on a mutually agreed basis.

Among other things, the edict of 10 June last year gives a detailed description of the procedure for "progressing" draft laws submitted to the State Duma and relating to questions within the jurisdiction of the government as well as the time limit for coordinating draft decisions.

The Russian president's present edict, which entered into force 3 May, is dictated by the desire to speed up this procedure. It shortens the period for examining draft edicts and directives of the Russian president and the government to five days. The result, on the one hand, is to open up the prospect of a more dynamic examination of questions within the government's jurisdiction and, on the other, to make this procedure less bureaucratic.

Nevertheless, in a number of cases the time limit for the examination of acts may be extended to 15 days with the written consent of the leaders of the Presidential Staff and the government apparatus.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Reshuffle in Army Command Leadership Announced

MK1305055095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 May 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "A Change in the Location of Postings Does Not Affect the Number of Generals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel General Anatoliy Golovnev, former deputy commander in chief of the Ground Forces in charge of combat training, has been appointed Ground Forces first deputy commander in chief (KOMMERSANT-DAILY predicted this appointment in February). Prior to Golovnev, this position was held by Col. Gen. Eduard Vorobyev, who was discharged from the army for his refusal to lead the federal troop contingent in Chechnya. Col. Gen. Anton Terentyev has been appointed a new deputy commander in chief responsible for combat training. Lieutenant General Aleksandr Chindarov, former deputy commander for emergency situations, has been appointed first deputy commander of the Airborne Troops. In the Chechen campaign, during the storming of Groznyy, Chindarov was in command of one sector. Lt. Gen. Anatoliy Chechulin, former commander of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, will probably be appointed commander of the Southeast Border District. The Russian border troops in Tajikistan will be led by Lt. Gen. Pavel Tarasenko, former chief of staff of the Caucasian Special Border District.

Reshuffle Seen Strengthening Grachev

MK1305091095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 May 95 p 3

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov under the "Situation in the Army" rubric: "Pavel Grachev Consolidates His Rear"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reshuffles in the top echelons of the army command caused by the Chechen operation are drawing to a close. In furtherance of the president's edict, the other day Pavel Grachev signed orders on new appointments to the Ground Forces Main Command and the Airborne Troops staff.

Several candidates were considered for the position of General Eduard Vorobyev, commander in chief of the Ground Forces, who was discharged for his refusal to take over the command of the federal troops in Chechnya. The key candidates — Anatoliy Sergeyev and Viktor Chechevatov, commanders of the Volga Region and Far Eastern Military Districts respectively

— declined the offer. This decision by commanders of the districts that were deemed to be the best in 1994, who enjoy authority both among the troops and the ministry's leadership, has been caused by a number of reasons. First, presently the army is waiting for presidential decisions regarding further directions of its reform. And from him any surprises can be expected. Second, district commanders may soon expect a considerable expansion of their powers: Moscow is leaning toward a switch to a territorial principle of command and control; hence, commanders will be given full authority with regard to troops deployed on the territory of their districts. Finally, a general with ambitious goals would hardly wish to be seen as a member of the "Grachev team." Although nothing threatens the current minister under the incumbent president, it is clear that if Yeltsin goes, Grachev will have to go, too. And then Sergeyev, for instance, may clearly expect something better. Given that, the appointment of Anatoliy Golovnev, deputy commander in chief in charge of combat training, who distinguished himself during the Chechen campaign, as first deputy commander in chief of the Ground Forces appears quite logical. (KOMMERSANT-DAILY predicted this turn of events back in February.) It is said that precisely because he was personally involved in training troops in Mozdok, the Russian Army's losses were reduced. After his failed attempt to keep Matvey Burlakov, former commander of the Western Group of Forces [WGF], as a deputy minister, Grachev could not but feel indebted to generals who returned from Germany and, upon making Golovnev his first deputy, he gave the post he vacated to Colonel General Anton Terentyev, former WGF chief of staff, who worked at the military inspectorate after the troop withdrawal.

Another appointee has become a legend in the army. Gen. Aleksandr Chindarov, who was made first deputy commander of the Airborne Troops, has gone through Afghanistan, the Ossetian-Ingush and the Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts, and his division was the first to arrive in the area of the Armenian earthquake in 1988. His actions in Chechnya, however, (first he commanded paratroopers, then headed an axis during the seizure of Groznyy) drew certain complaints from the command. Despite that, Chindarov remains one of the most respected paratroopers.

Therefore, nearly all vacant post at the top echelon of army command have been occupied. Pavel Grachev may be pleased at having gotten rid of his most energetic opponents, except, perhaps, for Lebed. Regarding that story, despite the army commander's agreement to carry out the ministerial directive and his decision to stay in the Dniester Region, it is too early to put a period.

VE-Day Seen as Renewing Country's Self-Confidence

MM1505103095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 May 95

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Observer Aleksandr Golts under the rubric "Topic of the Week": "Victory Day Restored Our Dignity. Let Us Not Lose It Now, Amid the Daily Routine"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Red-letter days always end, even when preparations for them have been very long and painstaking. Then it is back to the daily routine. The golden jubilee of Victory will soon be part of history too. But probably many people have found themselves regretting the fact that this day is receding into the past. And by no means because we are particularly fond of a celebration or out of a taste for festivities in general. [passage omitted]

Both the parades — the veterans' parade and the military parade — were integral to the event. You can only wonder at the spiritual insensitivity of those who are now wrinkling their noses in contempt: Once again Moscow has engaged in goose-stepping and saber-rattling. Although there was not a drop of militarism in these parades. There was a desire to show that Russia was strong yesterday, and is strong today. That is still capable of raising worthy people and scaling the heights of technical progress.

And this impulse, the impulse of a confidence in our own strength reacquired with great difficulty, was sensed by the world's leading politicians. By those who, transcending considerations of political expediency, came to Moscow to pay a tribute of gratitude to our country. I think that the tears in Bill Clinton's eyes when he was standing on Red Square were sincere. For during those moments not only he but everyone realized: Russia is by no means the humiliated country beset by insoluble problems that it sometimes appears to be in the pages of our own and foreign newspapers. This understanding was bound also to have an effect the next day, when by no means festive but rather tough talks were held in the Kremlin between the Russian and American presidents. And the fact that it was possible in these talks to map out solutions to extremely controversial problems was to a considerable extent down to the atmosphere of 9 May.

One further point. In my view, those politicians, both foreign and Russian, who tried to exploit the celebrations in Moscow in order to state more loudly their own claims placed themselves in a rather awkward position. Because the scale of the event itself clearly dwarfs the desire to shout something offensive against its background.

But the red-letter day is over. And just as clouds have returned to Moscow skies, difficult problems are returning to plague us: the future exacerbation of domestic political struggle already stemming directly from the elections, the extremely unstable economic situation, the Chechen crisis, and much else besides. We cannot hide from these acute problems, we must experience and resolve them. But today it is very important not to lose but to keep in mind the enthusiasm and sense of dignity that Victory Day has given back to Russians. [passage omitted]

One of the main problems of Russian political life is the fact that the opposing forces effectively do not have any common values and each one entirely and utterly rejects all the ideas of the others. But the recent celebrations have shown that the people, whom politicians are not only obliged but compelled to heed, do have these common, unifying values. People want — quite naturally — to be proud of their country and proud of belonging to it. The distant and recent past and the present day, ultimately, cannot be portrayed as an endless sequence of absurdities, crimes, and errors. Anyone who failed to discern the resurgent dignity of the people during these May days and who ignores these values in his election programs is condemning himself to defeat.

Relations between the various CIS countries are extremely complex. The forces that are continuing to divide everything up but simply cannot share out the assets of the former Union are extremely influential. But the victory is indivisible, like the common memory of all the peoples. We all sense this too when people who would never dream of regarding their comrades in arms and their children and grandchildren as foreigners were marching in single formation across Red Square. This awareness should give a further fillip to integration processes. Finally, a confident, calm tone can be the only one for Russia in relations with the leading world powers. A tone that our foreign policy finds it difficult to adopt. A tone that, once again, was natural during the Victory holiday.

No, these celebrations were not wasted. They supported confidence in our own strength and in our ability to cope with difficulties. We must not lose this asset amid the daily routine.

New Book on Military Doctrine, Warfare Published

MM1505085595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 May 95 p 2

[Article by Colonel L. Luzhkov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Information-Analytical Center: "What Defense We Should Prepare Ourselves For and How. VLADAR Publishing House Publishes Book by Army General M.A. Gareyev, President of the Academy of Military Science, Entitled 'If There Were a War Tomorrow'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Based on an analysis of the military- political situation, weapons, and military equipment, the book examines possible sources of war and military conflicts and the most important changes which may occur in the military organizational development of leading states in the world, the nature of armed battle, methods of combat application of the armed forces, and the thrust of their military training and education.

In an intelligible way, the author shows the unsoundness of the viewpoint that prevailed in the perestroyka years to the effect that war is no longer an extension of politics. He substantiates the changes in the nature of wars of the future, the main one of which is seen as the renunciation of the strategy of nuclear war and the fact that nuclear weapons are no longer battlefield weapons but are turning into a means of strategic deterrence. He draws the conclusion that, with the end of global confrontation and a change in the disposition of military-political forces in the world ,a world war seems unlikely, but the danger of the emergence of local wars and armed conflicts is growing.

The book reveals the basic point of the defensive nature of our country's military doctrine. The unsoundness of the theory of "sufficient defense," which boils down to the fact that with a defensive type of military doctrine you can get by with far fewer forces than a potential aggressor might have, is substantiated. Speaking about the prospects of military organizational development and possible spheres of evolution in methods of manpower acquisition in the armed forces, the author draws the conclusion that by and large the increasing professionalization of armies and navies will be the leading trend in the future.

Largely presented in layman's language and in an interesting way, the book soundly indicates the prospects of the development of military science. So it could serve as a good textbook not just for officers but also for a broad range of readers.

Sidorenko, Bondarev on Plutonium Smuggling

AU1605102295 Munich FOCUS in German
15 May 95 p 38

[Interview with Viktor Sidorenko, Russian deputy minister for atomic energy, in Moscow and with Nikolay Bondarev, security director of the "Moscow Kurtchatov Institute," in Wildbad Kreuth by Wilhelm Dietl and Gisbert Mrozek; date not given: "Germany Is Absorbing Nuclear Material Like a Vacuum Cleaner"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [FOCUS] Mr. Sidorenko, a German undercover agent has accused you of being involved in the Munich plutonium smuggling. You arrived on the same plane as the nuclear dealer.

[Sidorenko] I cannot answer without laughing. The allegations that have been leveled against me are absurd. The Bavarian Environment Minister Goppel urged me at the time to travel to Munich on the occasion of the presentation of a reactor safety study. The ticket was booked by Goppel's ministry.

[FOCUS] A coincidence?

[Sidorenko] It was an organized provocation by certain secret services that want to burden German-Russian relations and cast a shadow on the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy.

[FOCUS] Mr. Bondarev, you have claimed that the German intelligence service is behind the cases of nuclear smuggling in Russia.

[Bondarev] Our experts are surprised that the material is always discovered in Germany — not in Switzerland, not in Finland, not in Sweden, and not in France. Germany is like a Hoover for nuclear material.

[FOCUS] How easy or difficult is it to steal plutonium from a Russian factory?

[Bondarev] It is virtually impossible.

[FOCUS] Is it possible for nuclear material to leave your country without control?

[Bondarev] This is only possible if the secret services cooperate.

Magazine Implicates BND in Plutonium Smuggling

MM1505150695 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 May 95 p 3

[Report by Nikola Zhivkovich: "Plutonium Crooks. Reporting the Details of a Scandal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Berlin — For some days now the main story in the German papers has been the scandal associated with the drama staged at Munich airport last August by the FRG special services — the BND ("Bundesnachrichtendienst" [Federal Intelligence Service]). Initially the show was a complete success and created a sensation in the world media: Yes, indeed — smugglers had been caught red-handed trying to export plutonium from Russia! Some papers even ventured to suggest that valiant German intelligence officers had managed to prevent a nuclear Armageddon!

But the influential German magazine DER SPIEGEL has established that the entire operation involving the "smuggling" of plutonium out of Russia was organized by the German BND special service. The magazine described it as the "biggest German postwar scandal." In connection with the expose in DER SPIEGEL, the opposition demanded the resignation of Federal Minister Berndt Schmidbauer, who is the chief coordinator of the work of FRG intelligence services.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA talked last August about the incident at Munich airport, where three passengers who had arrived on a Lufthansa flight from Moscow were arrested. During the customs inspection at the airport they were found to be carrying 363 grams of plutonium. The BND intelligence service immediately arranged a press conference at which it told journalists how it had managed to infiltrate a Russian mafia group allegedly trading in nuclear materials, which had ensured the eventual sensational triumph. But DER SPIEGEL managed to establish that the entire approach was a sham from the very beginning: In actual fact, the BND did not have "its man" in Russia and the smuggling of the plutonium was been staged by... the German intelligence services themselves!

It should be said that the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry's immediate reaction was to accuse the German special services of organizing the provocation against Russia themselves. Now, following the piece in DER SPIEGEL, these suspicions are fully confirmed.

Some legitimate questions arise. What did the German intelligence service put this show on for? And was it really acting on its own initiative?

Many commentators believe that it was an attempt to discredit Russia. German citizens, indeed the West as a whole, need to be presented with the following picture: In Russia today there is no proper control of nuclear materials. Germany, however, in the BND's scenario, is a mighty power capable of protecting its own citizens' interests and maintaining order. It is only a short step to the next conclusion: Since the storage of nuclear materials in Russia is in disarray, this country must be placed under rigorous international control, in other words: The Germans and Americans must come to

Moscow to control Russia! This is what is really behind the act staged by the German special service.

DER SPIEGEL is a serious magazine. So serious that the law enforcement organs now asked themselves the question: How come the editorial board was able to obtain the kind of information that among official documents is normally marked "Top Secret"?

The scandal over the embarrassing BND farce undoubtedly also has domestic political implications. As for foreign policy, it is merely one of many episodes that graphically illustrate the main direction of German policy. One could cite at least 10 similar examples (albeit less sensational) in recent months.

Bonn officials and the German media, for example, are continuing the propaganda campaign in connection with the Moscow and St. Petersburg exhibitions of works of art which, the German press claims, the "Russians stole from Germany in 1945."

I remember the case of Anabella von Johnston. She is 72, the daughter of a famous magnate — industrialist Friedrich Siemens. The painting "Flowers" by Jacques Delacroix once hung in their home. According to the German press, her wish was to spend the last minutes of her life with the picture. But it is now in the "Hermitage." Hence the conclusion: "What people these Russians are! They will not even grant an old woman's last wish!"

But sensible comments are also made, albeit extremely rarely. In the weekly DIE WOCHE Mikhail Berger published a brief report expressing bewilderment at the great fuss in the German media about the "Russian trophies." For some reason the writers of these pieces, he remarked quite reasonably, forget, for example, how the "Priam's gold," found during the excavations of Troy, came to end up in Berlin.

It is regrettable that objective pieces of this kind very rarely appear in the German media. And these exceptions, alas, merely confirm a common tendency: not only in the press, but also in Bonn's official policy vis-a-vis Russia. There is so-called partnership with "friend Boris," but, in fact, provocative spectacles.

Fuel Rods Theft Blamed on Lax Naval Security

MM1205115095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 95 p 5

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Breakdown. Trial of Three Northern Fleet Officers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Severomorsk and Moscow — The investigation has been completed into the most publicized crime in the Russian Armed Forces last year — the theft in Murmansk, at the Northern Fleet dump, of three uranium rods from a nuclear reactor from the 671-design Yersh nuclear submarine (NATO classification Victor I). We reported this incident in IZVESTIYA No. 141, 27 July 1994.

Let me remind you that the crime was committed by Captain 2d Rank Aleksey Tikhomirov, acting chief engineer at the ship repair plant, and Capt. 3d Rank Oleg Baranov, former chief of the design bureau at the ship repair plant and at that time assistant head of administration of the city of Polyarnyy. Aleksey's younger brother Senior Lieutenant Dmitriy Tikhomirov, commander of the ships automated systems technical servicing group, was an accomplice and accessory to the deed.

One night in fall, Tikhomirov senior, in collusion with his accomplices, secretly penetrated the secure dump and, breaking the lock of a steel storeroom, stole 4,346.6 grams of radioactive substances, including 849.3 grams of uranium-235. The uranium rods were then kept for seven months in the garage of Oleg Baranov, who had promised his comrades that he would sell the stolen uranium. The apartment-less officers were planning to resolve their housing problems with the dollars they made. But it did not work out.

The search for the criminals and the investigation of the "uranium case" lasted more than a year. Finally the Severomorsk Garrison Court Martial, under the chairmanship of Captain of Justice Maksim Toporkov, in a trial lasting four days, found Aleksey Tikhomirov and Oleg Baranov guilty of the theft of radioactive materials under Article 223/3 of the RSFSR Criminal Code and sentenced them to terms of imprisonment to be served in a general-regime corrective labor colony. Three years six months for Tikhomirov. In addition he was stripped of his military rank of "Captain 2d Rank." Baranov was sentenced to three years. Tikhomirov junior, Dmitriy, senior lieutenant, was found guilty of aiding and abetting the crime, under Article 17, Section 6, and Article 223/3 of the RSFSR Criminal Code, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, suspended for one year.

But even today, a few weeks after the trial, the question remains open: Why was such a crime possible?

Stealing Is No Trouble at All

First, because of the excessively lax organization of the storage of fissionable material in the fleet. In the view of Senior Lieutenant of Justice Mikhail Kulik, the Northern Fleet military prosecutor, who conducted the investigation into this crime, even potatoes are sometimes better protected nowadays than radioactive materials.

The Military Unit 31326 dump from which three live fuel rods from the nuclear reactor core were stolen is in the Murmansk settlement of Rosta, on the shores of Kola Bay. From the sea, it has no fortifications at all: You can sail up in a launch and do what you like. Especially at night. On the other side there is the industrial zone of ship-repair plants, the timber processing combine, the railroad track depot, and a scrap heap for large property, lumps of ferrous and nonferrous metal, and wires. The fence is made of half-rotten boards. Apart from the fact that in places there are yawning gaps in it, if you can't be bothered to walk that far you can give the boards a shake and part them wherever you like.

Alarm systems, lighting — none. The old women, and even middle- aged women, who act as armed guards protecting the dump, if they wanted to patrol it from end to end, would have to spend hours negotiating snowdrifts as high as a man, for which they have neither the time nor the strength. Nor the desire, for that matter.

Larisa Sumskaya, chief of the armed guard team, stated in court that instead of 16 people on the staff, she has only 14 subordinates, and even then, as a rule, only three women, instead of four, turn up for the shift. On the night that the theft took place there were only two of them. It was not practicable for them to keep an eye on everything happening over the dump's several hectares of land.

The storeroom for the fuel rods itself — a steel vault with walls 6-8 mm thick — is fitted with antinuclear and fireproofing protection and a security alarm. But the alarm was made 20 years ago and is so primitive that it is practically useless. Also, it is connected to a distributor board located in the truck drivers' "common room." The board is not locked. A flick of a switch, and the whole electrical network is shut off. But even that was not necessary, since the terminals on the storeroom doors had oxidized long since and did not react at all to being switched on or off.

Everyone in the fleet knew about the poor state of repair of the alarm system on the storeroom, whether or not they were supposed to. Unit commander Capt. 2d Rank V. Shanikov, Capt. 3d Rank A. Bogdanov, chief of the storage section, and other officers and specialists had submitted written reports on this to the admirals. But the answer was always the same: no money.

There was not even the money to replace the lock on the storeroom containing radioactive materials. According to standing instructions, it was supposed to be a deadlock, the kind you cannot cut through. But there were only the funds for a padlock. And if Tikhomirov junior had not let the criminals down, and had brought them another lock just the same on the night before the theft, as he had promised, which Baranov and Tikhomirov senior planned to substitute for the spoiled one, then the loss of the uranium rods at the Rosta dump would not have been noticed for a very long time, maybe never.

Because their presence is checked by checking that the seal on the container lid is undamaged. Approximately once every two or three days, or once a week, depending. The dump chief throws back the tarpaulin from the shelves where the fuel rods are housed, and if there is no trace of visible, brutal damage, if all the fastenings are in place and the seal is undamaged, it never enters his head that anyone could have opened the uranium-containing box and stolen its contents. And making a plastic seal is an easy task for anyone with any skill at all.

Embarking on the task, A. Tikhomirov senior and Baranov, the former chief of the ship repair plant design bureau, knowing every detail of the actual situation at the North Sea Fleet dumps, were quite sure that in these conditions the crime they planned would pass off without a hitch. And so it turned out. The stolen rods and the thieves would doubtless never have been found were it not for chance and the personal qualities of Tikhomirov junior.

Investigative Steam Goes Up the Chimney

In my current account of the completion of the uranium case at the Northern Fleet Prosecutor's Office and of the trial of the criminals, I must apologize to readers. In the previous report on this story (IZVESTIYA No. 141), the author wasted a lot of words on the enormous amount of work done by the police, the military prosecutor's office, and the fleet counterintelligence service to track down, expose, and commit to trial the thieves who stole the live nuclear fuel rods.

And there really was an enormous amount of work done. It lasted nearly seven months. The investigators studied about 100 theories. They interrogated and questioned some 500 people. They carried out 30 investigative experiments and dozens of searches of suspects. They held Capt. 3d Rank A. Bogdanov, chief of the storage section, in the detention center at Murmansk jail for 52 days for "having failed to ensure the proper safekeeping of top secret articles." His subordinate, Warrant Officer N. Stakhornyy, the storeroom technical chief, had to give a written undertaking not to leave.

The loss of nuclear fuel from a nuclear submarine — it was the first time this had happened — was announced on radio and television and written about in all the newspapers in the Kola Peninsular. The police and counterintelligence service rifled through every suspicious place and set up road blocks and intensified customs checks. Not only in Murmansk Oblast, but also in Leningrad Oblast and the capital. It was all in vain. The rods seemed to have just melted away.

According to officers of the North Sea Fleet Prosecutor's Office — I wrote about this in the newspaper at the time — "the circle of suspects has been narrowed down to a few dozen people. They are being covertly observed and the counterintelligence service has concentrated its agents' attention on them."

It emerged in court that that was not true. Maybe there were suspects, but the investigation team had no substantial grounds for suspecting them. On 29 May 1994 the fleet military prosecutor's office admitted its own impotence. It passed a resolution "On the Suspension of the Preliminary Investigation" because of its total futility and hopelessness: In seven months of continuous work neither the stolen uranium nor the thieves had been found. There was not even any idea who they could be.

The most curious thing here is that at that time the criminals themselves did not know what to do with the stolen fuel rods. The buyers that O. Baranov, the brains behind the uranium affair, had intended to provide had not appeared. The dream of $60,000 for which the officers had hoped to sell their booty had evaporated like smoke. Nor was there any point in keeping the live fuel rods permanently in the garage basement.

The friends and accomplices were by now wondering how to return the fuel rods to the fleet without giving themselves away to the investigation and counterintelligence. They thought of dumping them in some obvious place on the Murmansk rail track and then calling the prosecutor or the duty officer from a payphone, with a handkerchief over the mouthpiece like in a detective movie: Go and look in such-and-such a place. They did not want the promised reward. But they were never to put this idea into practice.

On 20 June Tikhomirov junior, being slightly drunk, as usual, took a bottle and called on his friend and former colleague, Senior Lieutenant P. After a few more drinks, he invited the latter to earn some money — by passing to the "Caucasians" a consignment of rare-earth metal. But the senior lieutenant took no notice of his drinking partner's proposal. People will say anything when they're drunk.

On 24 June Dmitriy Tikhomirov called on him again, this time as sober as a judge.

"You remember the fuss about the three uranium rods that went missing?" he asked his friend. "My brother and I did it. They're in Oleg Baranov's garage now. Help us get rid of them, and a quarter of the 'greenbacks' are yours."

After seeing off his uninvited guest, Senior Lt. P. ran to Capt. 2d Rank K., deputy commander of his ship, and told him about the conversation.

"Write a statement for counterintelligence," his chief ordered him. And he himself took the paper to the chekists.

You Put Me in Prison, Brother

The Tikhomirov brothers were immediately arrested by the prosecutor's office. But the investigators left Oleg Baranov, the brains behind the crime who was keeping the stolen rods in his own garage, at liberty, merely obtaining from him a written undertaking not to leave. Every time he went to the North Sea Fleet Prosecutor's Office for the next interrogation or to the Murmansk detention center for a confrontation with his accomplices, the former captain 3d rank was expecting to be arrested any minute and to find himself in a damp, overcrowded cell in the local jail. This sickening feeling of fear of the inevitable made him extremely frank with the investigators, so as to postpone that extremely unpleasant event if only for a day or an hour.

Incidentally, the Tikhomirov brothers were also extremely frank with the military prosecutor's office. None of them, neither Dmitriy, nor Aleksey, nor Oleg Baranov, sought to protect himself or shift the blame onto the others, as they described in detail how the crime was planned and carried out. Senior Lt. Mikhail Kulik, investigator at the North Sea Fleet Prosecutor's Office, and Captain of Justice Maksim Toporkov, who chaired the trial, both independently told me that it was probably the first time in their legal experience that all the testimonies of the suspects and the accused had coincided entirely. This enabled the court to impose on the participants in the much-publicized theft the minimum penalty stipulated by law.

Moreover the court dropped from the charges, as being erroneous, Article 251 Point "b" of the RSFSR Criminal Code — willful damage to military property. Captain of Justice Toporkov told me that the criminals' intention was only to gain possession of the fuel rods, and the damage done was only what was necessary in order to steal the uranium rods. Therefore the justices only brought a financial suit against the officers for 15 million rubles for technical damage, rather than a prison term.

Furthermore the military justices took into account the fact that Tikhomirov junior had only given advice and instructions to further the crime, and had not played a direct part in it. Therefore they deemed it possible to impose a suspended sentence on him. Moreover, in connection with the amnesty announced by the State Duma, the court released him entirely from the sentence indicated in the verdict.

In the courtroom itself, after the verdict was read out, Senior Lt. Dmitriy Tikhomirov was released from the steel cage where the accused sat and was set free, while his place was taken, for three long years, by Oleg Baranov, who was immediately taken into custody. The former captain 3d rank had traveled from Polyarnyy to Severomorsk every day of the trial in his own car, the very car under which he had kept the stolen uranium rods for seven months. On the fourth day he took his neighbor with him as well as his wife: He guessed that this trip would be his last and someone would be needed to drive the Zhiguli home.

He was not mistaken in his expectations.

And as Tikhomirov junior was leaving the steel cage, Aleksey Tikhomirov threw these words at his back: "You put me in jail, brother."

He is convinced to this day that if it had not been for his younger brother's endless drunken binges, his pusillanimity on the night of the crime, and his talkativeness, Baranov and himself would of course never have ended up in jail.

On the territory of Military Unit 31326, at the Northern Fleet dump in Rosta, where 18 months ago three uranium rods were stolen from storeroom No. 3-30, they have increased the security personnel. Now there are not 16 women there, but 24. True, there was not enough money to repair the alarm system. But they have put in watchtowers from where it is possible to observe what is happening on the ground, and they have finally installed lighting. But the uranium rods for the nuclear submarines' reactors have now been removed from the dump.

The 671-design Yersh nuclear submarines have not been made since 1974. They and their reactors have long since been decommissioned and have not been used in the fleet for years. Nonetheless, only the incident at the Rosta dump finally made the fleet leadership and the nuclear industry remove the well and truly obsolete rods from the North, for factory reprocessing.

So now we wait for the next uranium incident to happen.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin To Press for Revision of Electoral Law

LD1505144395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1423 GMT 15 May 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW May 15 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will shortly send letters to the State Duma and the Constitutional Court of Russia to press for the revision of the decision of the lower house of the Federal Assembly regarding the Law "On the election of deputies to the State Duma". Yeltsin announced this during a meeting with members of the board of "Governors of Russia" union on Monday, Sergey Medvedev, Presidential press secretary, told Itar-Tass.

The President said he will be "pressing for the revision of the State Duma's unfair decision on electing deputies on 225 to 225 principle", said Medvedev, who participated in Yeltsin's meeting with chiefs of nine regional and territorial administrations. "The Head of State believes that if the new composition of deputies is elected in an equal measure from one-seat constituencies and on party lists, the Duma will not be representing the people", the press secretary said. Candidates from tiny parties based in the capital who will get an opportunity to be elected to the lower house of parliament if the Law "On election of deputies to the State Duma" is adopted in its present form will not be true representatives of the people, Yeltsin believes.

Rybkin Rules Out Reconsideration

LD1205140995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 12 (Interfax) — State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin believes that the lower house of the Russian parliament has no right to vote again on the issue on whether it overrides the Federation Council's veto on the law on elections of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly. Rybkin was speaking at the house session Friday following statements that one of the deputies, whose vote was cast "for," was in St. Petersburg on the day of the voting and somebody used his voting card.

The veto on the electoral law was overridden Thursday by a narrow margin: 302 votes were cast for it (whereas the required majority is 300 votes). One vote was subsequently annulled after it turned out that the deputy Marychev voted twice — from the speaking stand and with his voting card.

Rybkin also said that the procedural commission had received several written statements from house members, who on the previous day had gone on business trips, asking to count their votes as "for." Rybkin said their votes were not taken into account. He also said that recalling one's vote was a violation of the rules of procedure.

The Stability group insists that the voting to override the upper house's veto should be held again. Stability plans to ask the Constitutional Court to declare the results of the voting null and void.

The worst controversy in the law is the share of deputies to be elected in single-mandate constituencies and on party tickets. The State Duma supported a 225/225 option, whereas the Federation Council and a number of State Duma members insist on the majority principle.

Rybkin on Moratorium in Chechnya, Duma Actions

LD1205121295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1110 GMT 12 May 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 12 (Itar-Tass) — "The moratorium on combat actions in Chechnya must be observed by both warring sides, otherwise it is, unfortunately, not a moratorium," State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin told journalists today.

Responding to an Itar-Tass question about what the Federal authorities should do after the end of the moratorium today, Rybkin stressed that the State Duma on Friday voted in favour of putting on its agenda an item concerning further measures to be taken by the government to put an end to armed hostilities in Chechnya.

The House will be informed about the government's plans next Wednesday when the invited Cabinet ministers hopefully appear in the State Duma, Rybkin said.

The Duma chairman said that the Lower House of the Federal legislature had already expressed its own viewpoint in the law concerning the political settlement of the crisis in Chechnya which the State Duma approved and forwarded to the Federation Council for consideration.

This makes it clear that the viewpoint of the State Duma consists in the peaceful settlement of the conflict with the participation of both the Upper and the Lower Houses of the Federal Assembly, Rybkin said.

Petition on No Confidence Motion Ready 'Next Week'

LD1205153395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1246 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 12 (Interfax) — Collection of the State Duma deputies' signatures under the demand to consider the issue of no confidence in the government at the chamber's sitting will be concluded by next week, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia and chairman of the parliamentary committee on economic policy Sergey Glazyev declared in an exclusive interview with Interfax.

In line with the regulation of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, any issue should be submitted for its consideration within a week on the demand of one-fifth of the deputies corps, 90 people.

At the same time Glazyev pointed out that after 90 signatures are collected the issue of no confidence in the government will be forwarded to the State Duma Council but "not at once but, probably, in two weeks' time when it finally becomes clear that the majority of deputies are inclined to support it."

Glazyev reported that in accordance with a preliminary analysis held by him, "only 10 votes are needed" to express no confidence in the government (remember that not less than 226 votes are needed for this - IF note).

According to Glazyev, "in the near term the number of deputies who are ready to vote for no confidence in the government will grow."

Commenting on the constituent congress of the political movement "Our Home - Russia" created by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Glazyev noted that "in the next few days the State Duma is likely to address the Constitutional Court concerning the conformity of this new association with the Constitution."

Defense Committee Chair on Military Reform

LD1305161995 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian
1020 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] "The current leadership of the Ministry of Defense could turn the whole reform into routine cosmetic measures," Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma's Defense Committee, said in an interview with Ekho Moskvy radio station. "Nevertheless, in the Defense Ministry and the General Staff there are supporters of radical reform of the Armed Forces and there are relevant draft plans at the conceptual stage."

Yushenkov is convinced that the conduct of military reform does not depend only on the disposition of political forces, as the president, who is strongly influenced by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, has the prerogative in drawing up and implementing reform.

Yushenkov thinks that the commission on reform of the Armed Forces, which Boris Yeltsin referred to in his message to the Federal Assembly, should have been set up long ago with the participation not only of experts but also of representatives of the Federal Assembly.

"After discussion of the concept drawn up by this commission, the president could have made his amendments and confirmed it. That way the reform could have been carried out much more effectively, whereas now its drawing up depends on two or three people," Yushenkov emphasized.

Yushenkov thinks that autumn is the likely time for implementation of the military reform, but years, rather than one or two months, will be needed for its full implementation, as preparatory work in regulatory and social sectors is needed.

Results of Elections to State Duma in Moscow Region

LD1505095995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0917 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 15 (Interfax) — By preliminary estimates, on Sunday at the elections to the State Duma at the 107th Kolomna constituency (the Moscow Region), the victory was won by Pilot-Cosmonaut, Hero of the Soviet Union, Colonel-General (Air Force) German Titov (born 1935). He collected over 44,000 votes (8.5 percent).

The statement was made for Interfax by chairman of the constituency election commission Anatoliy Irgashev.

He said that the second place was occupied following the results of the voting, by Director-General of the "Glukhov Textile" (Noginsk, the Moscow Region) Mikhail Guberman — around 38,000 votes (7.3 percent).

The third was the wife of the "MMM" president and deputy to the State Duma Sergey Mavrodiy, model Yelena Mavrodiy — approximately 26,500 votes (5.08 percent).

She is followed by Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Terekhov, leader of the opposition "Officers' Union" — around 23,000 votes (4.43 percent).

As many as 11 candidates took part in the elections at the 107th constituency where 512,500 voters live. The elections took place due the murder on February 2, 1995 of Duma deputy Sergey Skorochkin.

By preliminary estimates, taking part in the voting were around 40 percent of people eligible to vote. According to Russian laws, to consider the elections valid it is necessary that one fourth of the electorate take part in them.

The final results of the voting will be made public after the meeting of the constituency election commission scheduled for the middle of the day.

Duma Official Protests Late Submission of Budget

LD1505121795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1145 GMT 15 May 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 15 (Itar-Tass) — The government has not submitted a draft federal budget for 1996 to the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) within a period stipulated by law, Itar-Tass learnt from Oksana Dmitriyeva, chairman of the budget subcommittee of the Duma Planning and Finance Committee here on Monday. She noted that the deadline expires exactly today.

Dmitriyeva said that, according to her information, the government plans to submit the draft federal budget for 1996 to the lower chamber by July 20 when the State Duma will be about to leave for the summer parliamentary holidays which are to last till September according to the Regulations.

"Thus, it is clear that we shall not be able to examine the draft budget for the next year in the first reading before the autumn, as it is stipulated," Dmitriyeva stressed.

State Duma Passes Bill on Foreign Economic Activity

LD1205141295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1328 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 12 (Interfax) — The State Duma passed right after the second and third readings a bill "On State Control Over Foreign Economic Activity" and forwarded it to the Federation Council on Friday (282 and 292 deputies voted for the bill, 3 and 1 against, and no one abstained from voting in both cases).

When a State Duma committee member Viktor Mashinskiy outlined the bill, he urged the government "to control this activity to safeguard the country's economic sovereignty and security."

As Mashinskiy revealed, the committee had disagreed with the cabinet's proposal to remove from the bill part of article 17 on "the state monopoly of export and/or import of some commodities" and had disapproved a number of cabinet amendments.

According to the law, the government drafts a federal foreign trade activity program, submits it to the Federal Assembly for debate, defines custom tariffs "within the limits fixed by federal laws" and fixes qualitative export and import ceilings.

The law provides for retaining import and export custom tariffs intact and for quoting and licensing foreign economic activity but forbids other forms of state control over this activity. The government is allowed to limit export and import in terms of quality "in exceptional cases," "to guarantee national security and fulfil Russia's international commitments by taking the situation on the domestic commodities market into account" and to protect this market.

The lists of goods, whose export and/or import are under state monopoly, comply with federal laws, and licences for this activity are issued by the government "exclusively for state-run unitary enterprises."

The law contains a special section on export and import taboos to ensure national interests and defines border trade regimes in free economic zones.

Duma Passes Minimum Living Standard Bill

MK1605073095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 May 95 p 2

[Report by Natalya Olenich under the "Initiative" rubric: "Deputies Vote for Minimum Living Standard. Government Will Have To Calculate It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Off-the-cuff figures regarding minimum wages and pensions and the eternal horse-trading between the representative authority, eager to please the voters as much as possible, and the executive authority, intent on saving budget funds, appear to have come to an end. Under the bill "On the Minimum Living Standard in the Russian Federation," which was passed by the State Duma in third reading, all social insurance payments are to be calculated on the basis of the minimum living standard from 1 January 1996. The minimum living standard itself will be calculated for each region, proceeding from the cost of 19 staple foodstuffs and adding to the sum a certain coefficient depending on the region's climatic belt.

In theory, the state is obliged to ensure for every citizen a minimum subsistence that enables him or her to survive without much luxuriating. This year, however, a total of 13.2 trillion rubles would have to be spent on these purposes. Whether the government would wish to make such expenditures next year will depend on the state's social policy priorities, Aleksandr Osovtsov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Labor and Social Support Committee, thinks. The state, Mr. Osovtsov believes, should choose what is more important for it: to allocate money to support its citizens, or to wage wars, maintain the army, and so forth. Once the choice is made, it should frankly tell the people that it is unable to guarantee a 100-percent minimum living standard for all Russians.

In this case, the bill calls for an option that is less burdensome for the state treasury. It does not envision minimum living standard guarantees for all citizens, but proceeds from an overall household income. If per-capita household income is less than the minimum living standard, the household will be entitled to apply for a benefit covering the difference between its actual income and the subsistence minimum.

The Duma plans to include appropriations to ensure the minimum living standard in the 1996 budget. According to Mr. Osovtsov, unless inflation exceeds the level planned by the government, implementation of the law would cost about 14 trillion rubles. If the bill is approved by the Federation Council, about which there are virtually no doubts, given the draft's socially oriented nature and relatively high quality, then a possible presidential veto would certainly be overridden by the lower chamber, which has already passed the bill by 326 votes.

Regional Affairs

UN Official on Possible Location of Cuny Remains

LD1605074295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0653 GMT 16 May 95

[By Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, May 16 (Itar-Tass) — The dead body, supposedly of U.S. citizen Fred Cuny, 50, a staff member of the Soros Fund, will be brought today to the airport of Nazran, capital of the Republic of Ingushetia. Cuny was reported missing on April 7-8 in the zone of combat operations in Chechnya. The dead body was found near the village of Geldagen with two bullet wounds in the head. Sulphric acid was poured on the face of the dead body.

Fred Cuny's brother came to Nazran to help find and identify the body.

The search for the missing American citizen, as well as two representatives of the Red Cross Society and a lady interpreter, a Russian citizen, who were reported missing together with Cuny and whose whereabouts are still unknown, has been conducted by the Russian Federal Security Service. Aside from it, Itar-Tass learned that Dudayev's men have also been looking for them.

Joe Sills, official representative of the U.N. Secretary-General, said today that at present the U.N. can neither confirm nor refute press reports that Cuny has been killed. The press reports say that his dead body was probably found in Chechnya; we are keeping in touch with the Russian authorities and, according to the latest information, there have been no positive results of the identification, Sills said. He promised to report the results of the identification, if they are positive, as soon as they came.

OSCE Official on Fighting in Chechnya, Cuny Incident

LD1505211995 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1730 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It is more than likely that the corpse of the American male aid worker, who was conducting an on-site study on the way in which aid could be given, has been found in Chechnya. He disappeared about a month ago. Examination of the body suggested that he had been shot in the head. The convoy of foreign diplomats that was travelling to the location to identify the body was fired on by Russian tanks. Sandor Meszaros, head of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Groznyy, has told "Newsreel" that 15 May has passed in relative calm; there has been no fighting.

[Unidentified correspondent] The diplomat said that he consulted the commanders of the Russian troops recently, following an increase in the number of shots being fired, and they promised that their soldiers would not use their arms unless necessary. However, intensive fighting continues outside the town—around areas still in Chechen hands. Meszaros said that Russian troops have surrounded a number of villages, and they fire on what they take to be Chechen positions from time to time.

However, he denied press reports claiming that federal forces fired on an OSCE convoy on 12 May. He said that a convoy had been attacked, but it was not an OSCE mission convoy but an American one. The convoy was traveling toward the town of Sapoy because a corpse had been found there, and it was thought that it might be the dead body of Fred Cuny, the aid expert from the Soros Foundation who disappeared a few weeks ago. The Hungarian diplomat said that it was conceivable that the convoy had been fired on unintentionally, that a convoy of cars simply lost its way and found itself on the front line. There had been not one single attack on OSCE members in Chechnya, he added.

[Begin Meszaros recording] We are also often out on location; naturally, we also cross front lines. It has happened more than once that we would arrive in an area that was just then under artillery fire. Naturally, however, I cannot claim that the fire has been aimed at the OSCE delegation. [end recording]

Further Reportage on Situation in Chechnya

Situation Said Improved Since Truce

LD1505135795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1246 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 15 (Interfax) — The situation in the conflict zone has noticeably improved since the moratorium on combat operations, a commander of the joint federal grouping told Interfax on Monday. He said that the federal troops' losses have been reduced to a minimum, while the militants are sustaining considerable losses.

He also said that over the past three days, two servicemen of the federal troops had been killed. There were no losses on Saturday, but one serviceman was killed on Sunday. The militants lost 21 men on Saturday and 35 on Sunday. He announced that "the situation in Chechnya differs from the portrayal by certain media." "Thanks to the measures taken by the federal troops, the situation has improved and the militants' operations have become much less efficient," he said.

He said that on the stretch of the railway linking Khasavyurt and Kadi-Yurt the militants had tried to obstruct a cargo train on its trial run Sunday. No one was injured, train traffic has been resumed.

The federal troops eliminated a car column with 25 militants and a mobile storage of fuel and lubricants east of Shali.

Troops Shell Bamut, Orekhovo

LD1505140395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1246 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN, May 15 (Interfax) — According to an on-the-spot Interfax reporter, on Sunday night heavy guns and rocket installations were used against Chechen positions in the outskirts of Bamut and Orekhovo, southwest Chechnya. The reporter says that by morning the shelling had slackened off.

According to the Chechen side, three militants were killed and one wounded in the shelling Sunday. As much as 80 percent of houses in Nizhni Bamut are destroyed. Chechen sources claim Verkhni Bamut, where rebels hide in the woods, remains practically undamaged. They say a line of defense has been built in the approaches of Verkhni Bamut and its defenders have sufficient quantities of personnel and materiel to rebuff the attacks of the Russian army.

Forces Deny Two Planes Shot Down

LD1605105695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0912 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 16 (Interfax) — The acting commander of the joint federal force in Chechnya Colonel-General Mikhail Yegorov denied in a Tuesday interview with Interfax the claims of Dzhokhar Dudayev's representatives that two Russian ground attack planes were shot down in Chechnya Monday.

"It is becoming difficult for the militants and they spread such reports only to boost their own morale", he said.

Yegorov said federal troops continue "normal offensive actions" in Chechnya. According to him, on Monday hostilities were limited to skirmishes and exchanges of fire.

The shooting down of two Russian planes in Chechnya Monday was reported to Interfax on the phone by Dudayev's spokesman Movladiy Udugov who claimed that one plane fell in Dagestan and the other in the area of Belgatoy, Chechnya. Its pilot ejected himself.

Udugov also said that according to Dudayev's staff, on Monday the Russian aviation bombed communities in Shatoy, Vedenskoye and Nozhay-Yurt regions. Human lives were lost. Artillery fire was opened at the Chechen positions in Shali, Gudermes and Nozhay-Yurt.

Udugov said Serzhen-Yurt, Chiriy-Yurt and Zamay-Yurt were also shelled and people. [sentence as received]

He said in the area of Nozhay-Yurt a Russian tank column attempted to approach Zamay-Yurt community but retreated to its old positions after an hour and a half of fighting.

Situation in Groznyy Stabilizes

LD1605114395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 16 May 95

[By Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, May 16 (Itar-Tass) — The situation in Groznyy has markedly stabilised over the past 24 hours, Itar-Tass was told today in the press centre of the allied command of federal forces.

There have been less Chechen attacks on the city's commandant's offices and military posts.

According to the press centre, Chechen rebels continued assaults on the federal troops in western Chechnya. Shellings killed one and wounded another serviceman.

The federal troops continued the search for rebel units in eastern parts of Chechnya. A Chechen column of 11 trucks has been discovered and attacked. Seven trucks have been reported to be destroyed.

The press centre said the rebels were making stores of arms and food near the village of Samashki to serve as logistic bases.

Chechen saboteur groups have been detected near the mountain village of Sayusany. The groups are thought to be preparing for terrorist actions in the plain terrain and in Groznyy.

Dudayev Side Blamed for Failed Truce

MM1605090495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 May 95 p 3

[Article by Anatoliy Mikhaylov: "After the Moratorium. Combat Operations Have Started Up Again in South and Southwest Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The events of last weekend have shown particularly clearly that Dudayev's followers spent the time of the moratorium on combat operations in the Chechen Republic. They transferred additional forces to near to Groznyy and started shelling the city during the night of 13-14 May. In all, Groznyy was subjected to shelling over 18 times during those 24 hours. The city commandant's office was obliged to declare virtually a state of siege. So it is perfectly normal and even very right that the moratorium was not extended, as some people wanted.

Quite a lot has already been said about the fact that the gunmen virtually disregarded the president's cease-fire edict. They carried on attacking columns of federal forces, firing on troop positions, replenishing arms and hardware, and regrouping forces and means. Units and subunits of the Russian Federation Army and Ministry of Internal Affairs endeavored, when the best possible circumstances presented themselves, to give as good as they got.

In general, the very idea of the moratorium, which could have made a smooth transition to a lengthy truce and then to the complete cessation of combat operations, is, of course, more than attractive. But it is possible to count on success only if we are dealing with regular enemy troops subject to strict discipline. Uncoordinated bandit formations have never made or will ever make a reliable partner in talks. At the same time as some of the gunmen's field commanders are trying to arrange a dialogue with the Army leadership, other Dudayev "leaders" are declaring that they will fight to the last man. They shoot people in the back and strike at the rear areas.

The so-called economic basis for continuing the resistance in Chechnya also should not be forgotten. It is absurd and naive to think that the Chechen clans organized the struggle for some higher ideals. Very real money made by the mafia structures in Chechnya is "tied up" in the war. The Dudayev leaders cannot reconcile themselves to the loss of this opportunity, rather than the loss of some mythical sovereignty. Even now, under conditions that are far from favorable, they are continuing to get rich through their accomplices, albeit not on the previous scale. There are plenty of examples. Medical supplies, medicines, and foodstuffs are on sale at speculative prices in Groznyy and its environs; indeed, everything that comes here in the form of humanitarian aid and through the channels of the Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters.

During a visit to the Burdenko Military Hospital Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation minister of defense, declared that the moratorium had expired and that more vigorous actions would now be taken to eliminate the remaining bandit formations. According to the minister, these actions will be carried out primarily by internal troop and police forces with the active support of Army aircraft and artillery until "the remaining bandits realize the hopelessness of their situation and surrender."

Chechen Official on Talks With Grachev

LD1505201695 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Aslan Maskhadov, chief of the general staff of the Chechen armed forces, he was to have held talks with Pavel Grachev on 11 May. When Maskhadov arrived in the village of Novyye Atagi, a spokesman of the command of federal troops told him that the talks would be postponed until 22 May. Nobody has cancelled this date yet. At the same time, Maskhadov does not believe he will be able to agree with Grachev on anything.

[Maskhadov] There is no way he will stop this war. More sober-minded people are needed for this, people who want this war to stop. I have always been saying that I am prepared to meet the generals who are fighting and who have felt on their own skin what wars are like and have seen (?the horrors) of this war not from Moscow, from afar but here, with their own eyes. I am speaking about Troshev and Kvashnin. They have a very sympathetic attitude, and we understand one another very well. As former officers in the same army, we understand clearly what has happened, that it is something terrible and appalling.

Dudayev Plans Escape to Azerbaijan

LD1505200395 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev plans to seek temporary asylum in Azerbaijan if Chechen militants and local defense fighters are completely defeated. From there he intends to go, depending on the circumstances, to Jordan or Turkey, which have large Chechen populations. According to reports from Baku, the Khabar-Servis agency learned this from Asifkhan Kubaly, chairman of the Azerbaijani Political Center, citing his representative in Groznyy.

According to Kubaly, the leadership of his organization believes that granting Dzhokhar Dudayev asylum in Azerbaijan will irreparably damage the republic's national interests.

About 70 Russian Servicemen Held

LD1205193295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1844 GMT 12 May 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, May 12 (Itar-Tass) — Some 70 Russian servicemen are being kept by Chechen militants. Russian secret services are doing their best for their liberation, representative of the public relations center of the federal security service in Groznyy Vladimir Murashkin told Itar-Tass today.

In his words, meetings of the federal troops command and Chechen field commanders are being held every week to discuss liberation of servicemen in exchange to detained militants. In early April an illegal armed unit head was given lists of servicemen-hostages and lists of militants kept in investigation wards. However, there have been no inspiring Chechen reaction to this. Only one Russian serviceman has been freed within the past month. In the words of Murashkin, servicemen-hostages are used by the militants as a means of pressure on the federal troops command.

Refugees Flee to Ingush Village

LD1305134595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0609 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nazran, 13 May — The number of refugees is growing day by day in the Ingush village of Arshty, 3 km from Bamut in Chechnya. The village headman, Mukharbek Katsiyev, told ITAR-TASS that there are currently about 3,000 refugees in the village — approximately twice the normal size.

The International Red Cross today delivered five truckloads of clothing and food to the village where the ministry for emergencies of the Ingush Republic regularly supplies and distributes bread.

According to the refugees, Verkhniy Bamut has not yet been taken by the federal troops; however, few residents aside from several dozen old men and women still remain. They say many buildings in Nizhniy Bamut have been destroyed; less than half of the houses have survived the numerous shellings.

Government Audit Team in Maritime Kray

Governor on Chubays' Activities

LD1205124095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 12 May 96

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 12 (Itar-Tass) — Primorye governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko told Itar-Tass today that he had no information about the partial suspension of the activity of the group of inspectors sent to the Far Eastern territory by First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays.

Nazdratenko confirmed that he had appealed to the President and the Prime Minister in connection with certain "inaccuracies" contained in the preliminary conclusions drawn by the commission.

The commission, as made public earlier, is in the Far East on an assignment from the First Vice-Premier to investigate the reported abuse of the Federal resources which had been earmarked to pay the miners' wages.

Yevgeniy Nazdratenko told Itar-Tass that the abuse of the budgetary resources imputed to his administration was "an absolute invention". The money was controlled fully and exclusively by the Finance Ministry and the recipient, Primorskugol stock company, he said.

Nazdratenko who attended the founding congress of the movement "Russia is our Home" in Moscow told Itar-Tass that he would "never agree to be in the same party or political movement with Anatoliy Chubays who sold about one hundred major enterprises in the Primorye territory for 14 billion roubles".

Incidentally, sources at the congress told Itar-Tass that First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays was not elected to the movement council, although his name was on the list of members of the organising committee which prepared the congress during a meeting in late April at the government dacha in Volynskoye.

Maritime Authorities Resist Audit

MK1305124095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 May 95 p 2

[Report from Khabarovsk by Oleg Kryuchek under the "Conflict" rubric: "Maritime Authorities Have Verified Credentials of the Governmental Commission. Verification Showed That No Audit of Kray Administration's Financial Activities Has Been Envisioned by Its Technical Assignment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The governmental commission headed by Petr Karpov, deputy director of the Department for Bankruptcy Cases, which is investigating the reasons for the crisis in the Maritime Kray regional fuel and energy complex, has been confronted with the unwillingness of local authorities to assist in this investigation. Specifically, kray administration staffers refused to give Mr. Karpov the possibility to look into the financial activities of Maritime executive authorities. Officials from the local financial administration also disobeyed the commission's order to audit the kray's cash budget. The Maritime authorities demanded — which is unprecedented in the history of relations between the center and provinces — that it be shown the technical assignment in accordance with which Mr. Karpov's commission was to work in the kray. It was found that the assignment did not contain any provisions envisioning an audit of the administration's financial activities. The Maritime Kray authorities immediately notified Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin about this incident.

At present, over 50 workers from the prosecutor's office, the tax inspectorate, the Federal Security Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the President's Auditing Directorate are proceeding with inspecting branches of the "Primorskugol" [Maritime Coal] and "Dalenergo" [Far East Energy] joint-stock companies. The local administration, however, no longer conceals its conviction that the commission has arrived in the region in search of materials discrediting Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko. The administration also does not hide its joy in connection with the new political appointment of Mr. Nazdratenko, who has become a coordinator of the political bloc "Russia is Our Home" in the Far East, and it believes, quite reasonably, that now it will be easier for Governor Nazdratenko, in his new capacity, to bear all accusations of showing mercenary spirit, political adventurism, and so forth.

Role of Chubays Team Disputed

LD1505150295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0712 GMT 15 May 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Eduard Popov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladivostok, 15 May (ITAR-TASS) — Members of a commission dispatched on the instructions of Anatoliy Chubays to the Maritime Territory to audit the use of federal credits by the Territory's administration completed their work today and are flying to Moscow.

It was reported that the commission flew from Moscow to Vladivostok on 10 May on the instructions of First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays. The commission's task was to check on payments discipline at the region's coal mining enterprises which have just recently been through an acute crisis and general strike by the miners. The group of government experts comprises around 40 people representing the Federal Security Service and Ministry of Internal Affairs among others. The commission was headed by Petr Karlov, deputy general director of the federal administration dealing with insolvent enterprises [federalnoye upravleniye po delam nesostoyatelnosti predpriyatii].

It is known that a session of the operational commission on improving the system of payments and settlements chaired by Anatoliy Chubays on 3 May decided to hand over the documentation concerning the causes of the "coal crisis" in the Maritime Territory to the prosecutor's office.

However, on 12 May the Maritime Territory administration partially halted the activities of the government commission, with the consent of the country's leadership. According to a statement by the territory's press department, the Moscow commission exceeded its powers. It did not ask the territory's leadership for a full financial and economic audit of the territory administration. By removing the cash office of the central accountancy department without any warning whatsoever, the commission completely paralyzed all the services and departments of the Territory administration.

However, Petr Mostovoy, the first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Management of State Property, denied reports that the commission had been suspended. His statement notes that these reports come from sources close to the territory administration. As for the commission, it is continuing its work.

At a news conference in Vladivostok today Maritime Kray Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko asserted that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin knew nothing about this commission being sent to the Maritime Territory. The governor also referred to a conversation he had with the prime minister in Moscow on 13 May, where he was invited to take part in the inaugural congress of the "Our Home is Russia" movement.

According to the governor, Chernomyrdin immediately telephoned Deputy Premier Anatoliy Chubays, who also denied being involved in organizing this inspection. However, it is his signature which is on a government telegram informing the Maritime Kray administration of the arrival of the interdepartmental commission headed by Petr Karlov on 10 May.

The governor of Maritime Territory still believes that the commission was authorized by Chubays.

The Far East regional congress of business circles today called for an end to the prolonged conflict. Its statement says that "business circles in the region believe that this conflict situation threatens to have very unpleasant consequences for the whole country which could go as far as breaking up the integrity of Russia. The reciprocal self-seeking accusations of the opposing sides, the endless commissions squandering billions of rubles, are causing a stir and creating anticenter attitudes among the population of Maritime Territory.

Auditing Commission Leaves Maritime

LD1605091295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 16 May 95

[By Eduard Popov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK May 16 (Itar-Tass) — An interdepartmental governmental commission that examined the use of federal credits by the Maritime territorial administration completed the examination. All members of the commission flew to Moscow. The commission refused to issue any information about the results of its investigation before leaving for Moscow. Itar-Tass learnt this on Tuesday from the press department of the Maritime territorial administration.

Petr Karpov, deputy director-general of the federal agency on insolvency, head of the commission, did not comply with the request of Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, governor of the Maritime territory, to instruct a number of experts to stay in the Maritime territory "for a fair and more objective investigation". He has not fulfilled either his promise to give a news conference to local journalists on the day of the departure, May 15.

Nazdratenko believes that the commission's arrival in the Maritime territory was sanctioned by Anatoliy Chubays, Russian First Deputy Premier, despite the fact that, according to a testimony of the governor himself, Chubays, during a conversation with Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, denied his involvement in this inspection. The government telegram which notified the Maritime territorial administration of the commission's arrival on May 10 was signed precisely by Chubays.

Maritime Kray Officials React to Chubays Statements

954F2265A Vladivostok VLADIVOSTOK in Russian 15 Apr 95 p 1

[News department report: "Press Conference at the White House"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A press conference took place in the kray administration in which deputy governors Dubinin and Kuzov took part.

The reason for the meeting with journalists were statements offensive to the kray administration made by Deputy Prime Minister Chubays and circulated by the central mass media, and also the business visit to the Maritime Region made by a group of functionaries headed by Yuriy Shafranik, director of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy.

In connection with the first question, representatives of the kray administration made an official statement categorically rejecting the accusation by Anatoliy Chubays that the local authorities had "defiantly pursued a worsening of the situation" in the fuel-energy complex of the kray.

After enumerating the series of measures undertaken by the kray administration to stabilize the situation in the TEK [fuel and energy complex], Valentin Kuzov expressed bewilderment with respect to the deputy prime minister's claim concerning purchases of alleged poor-quality and expensive coal in China, and also about the intention of Yevgeniy Nazdratenko to blockade the Transsib. After accusing Anatoliy Chubays of some "cunning," representatives of the kray administration explained this as a desire on the part of the deputy prime minister to shift the blame for what has occurred in the economy of the country onto the local authorities.

Nevertheless, as Valentin Dubinin emphasized, all the statements by Anatoliy Chubays that were directed at Yevgeniy Nazdratenko are nothing other than the deputy prime minister's personal opinions, and do not in any way reflect the official point of view of the Government of Russia regarding the local authorities.

Dwelling on the results of the government delegation's work in the kray, Valentin Dubinin noted that the arrival of Minister Shafranik in the kray had removed the tension somewhat among miners. Fifty billion rubles have now arrived in Maritime Region banks from the center, and the payment of miners' wages has begun. As confirmed by Anatoliy Vasyanovich, general director of the joint-stock company Primorskugol, all mines of the Maritime Region must stop the strike and get down to work. However, the question of payment of wages to the power engineers remains open. Yuriy Basharov, general director of the joint-stock company Dalenergo, who is trying to resolve this problem, is now in Moscow.

In the course of Yuriy Shafranik's visit to the Maritime Region a number of strategic questions concerning the kray's coal industry were also examined, among which were such problematical ones as the closing down of a number of promising mines, the development of open-pit coal mines and the expansion of already existing ones, and also the use of promising unconventional sources of energy.

Kalmykia's Presidency, Economy Reviewed

954F2226A Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 11, 26 Apr-2 May 95 p 3

[Article by Natalya Koposova: "'Springboard for Reforms': Two Years On"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the years of the contemporary history of Russia, when dynamic processes have begun in many corners of the Federation, some regions have acquired parallel names: Nizhniy Novgorod—"oasis of capitalism"—Ingushetia—"offshore zone" (thus far)—Kalmykia—"springboard for reforms."

A marathon of various anniversaries came to a conclusion in April in Kalmykia—one of the most enigmatic republics of the Russian Federation: 12 April was the second anniversary of the presidency of Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, and 11 April, the first anniversary of the adoption of the Steppe Code, and it all began directly with the birthday—33d—of the youngest president of Russia.

Springboard for Reforms

When, two years ago, a young businessman with provocative impertinence began an election campaign, dynamically scoring points, in a Russia that had yet to experience the phenomenon of Zhirinovskiy and MMM, few believed that these were the steps of a future president.

Success has not gone to his head, and today Ilyumzhinov acknowledges the excessive lengths to which he went in an unequivocal evaluation of the decisions he made earlier. The dissolution of the Supreme Soviet of Kalmykia included. But at that time, in 1993, the tone had been set, and the next step of the now-elected president was the voluntary offer to make Kalmykia a springboard for reforms.

At first sight the offer concerning a voluntary experiment on his own people might have appeared to be cynicism. This was the impression that was created initially. The proclamation of the creation of the "Kalmykia" public corporation was reminiscent more of the resourceful gesture of a businessman than the well-considered step of a statesman. But the deplorable state of the subsidized republic, in which 90 percent of the economy was composed of agriculture, required extraordinary decisions and, upon a closer examination of the idea, convinced people that this was, possibly, the sole prudent decision. Especially since the 350,000-strong population enabled Kalmykia to be a relatively manageable republic suitable for precisely weighed innovations.

The first step was the creation of an offshore zone. Ilyumzhinov's main idea was the creation of processing industry. Wool, which had been stored for three years and for which there had been no buyer, was sold for a start. Following this 100 percent sale, neighbors from Volgograd Oblast and Stavropol, who had had difficulties resolving the problem, made a beeline for Kalmykia, incidentally.

But, as a competent business manager, Ilyumzhinov understood that the production of wool meant only kopeks and that something more profitable was needed, and the construction of a wool-washing factory began. And the production of proprietary fabric and, in addition, proprietary models were planned for the future. For which joint ventures came to be created with Christian Dior and others also.

But the elements made their adjustments to the plans of the Kalmyk leadership. And the problem of the Caspian, which, having formerly retreated, has now begun to advance, has arisen today in the way of the development of the republic's economy. It is notable that on this problem also Ilyumzhinov has counted more on the republic's internal resources. Speaking at a meeting of veterans and the youth on the eve of the 50th victory anniversary, the leader of the republic declared that "we cannot wait for Moscow to help us or for the Americans to come and buy us up lock, stock, and barrel."

Dwelling, incidentally, on American industry's participation in the formation of the new Russia with its "new Russians," the 33-year-old Ilyumzhinov, addressing the veterans, called their attention to the kind of indoctrination to which the youth is being subjected by American advertising. He called on them to begin a struggle for the youth because "American capitalism does not need Russian industry," it needs a "raw material base" and "manpower."

Window Into Russia

When Ilyumzhinov had the idea to oppose the trend of "Russia being pulled apart into national apartments," the president's security service advised him to be in no hurry, calling on Ilyumzhinov to reflect: Surely there is a more Russian Russian than himself.

On the eve of the abrogation of the constitution and the adoption of the Steppe Code—the basic law of Kalmykia, which proclaims Russia to be united and indivisible—his parents, as Ilyumzhinov confesses, "gulped down Validol." And some candidly advised him to stay out of the federal fight, explaining that it was to many people's advantage to pull apart the regions in order that it might be possible against the background of the general screw-up to successfully avail themselves of the Russian treasury. One way or another, the sovereignty parade was at its height at that time and the debate concerning the Urals Far East Republic had engulfed the news media....

A year passed. Some representatives of the federal authorities are still refraining from evaluating what has happened. Some have already spoken about the positive effect. But one thing is already clear today. Kalmykia has become, if not the most stable, one of the most stabilizing regions of Russia.

Today, thanks to the creation of the optimum economic conditions, Kalmykia is attracting various sums of overseas capital for investment. There have already been investments of $670 million.

Kalmykia has found its niche. And the main step here, according to Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, has been the fact that the republic has succeeded in "eliminating its inferiority complex" and creating a "window into Russia" not only for overseas investors but for many Russian entrepreneurs also.

In development of the offshore zone created within the framework of Edict No. 2270 of the president of the Russian Federation on the possibility in the regions of the independent establishment of the tax procedures, the Agency for Development and Cooperation (ARiS) in the Office of the President of the Republic of Kalmykia was formed on 2 March 1994. Its mission is the coordination of the process of the granting of tax privileges. Ensuring the efficiency of the accumulation of funds, the agency has even today developed a network of more than two dozen offices, bringing its services as close to the consumer as possible. And after all operating formats had undergone official approval, the accumulated experience of the ARiS was collated in the law of the Republic of Kalmykia "On the Granting of Tax Privileges for a Particular Category of Taxpayers," which was adopted by the People's Hural of the Republic of Kalmykia of 19 January 1995.

Economic Issues

Duma Adopts Law on Regulating Foreign Trade

LD1205143395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1309 GMT 12 May 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 12 (Itar-Tass) — All citizens of the Russian Federation with the exception of law-envisaged cases are now able to involve in foreign trade, in accordance with the federal law "On State Regulation of Foreign Trade" adopted by the State Duma in the third reading today. The law long-awaited by Russian and foreign businessmen will be submitted for approval to the Federation Council.

Under the law foreign citizens can involve in foreign trade in Russia in accordance with the Russian legislation. The Russian Federation, its constituent members and municipal bodies can directly involve in foreign trade only in cases established by federal constitutional laws, federal laws and laws of constituent members of the Federation.

The Russian government shall provide for a single state foreign trade policy, ensure its fulfilment, elaborate and submit to the parliament for approval a program of foreign trade development and take temporary measures for protection of the Russian domestic market.

Foreign Trade Law Bolsters State Regulation

MK1305120095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 May 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Lantsman in the "Lawmaking" column: "The Deputies Have Erected Barriers in the Way of Foreign Trade. Conformity to 'Public Morals' Is the First Criterion of the Quality of Imported Goods"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday State Duma deputies by a majority of votes approved the bill "On State Regulation of Foreign Trade Activity." The law was adopted simultaneously in its second and third reading and sent to the Federation Council for approval. The Duma members apparently decided to respond in a constructive manner to rebukes of dragging out passage of laws which are called upon to regulate the domestic economy under market conditions, which are unusual for it. The title of the law, however, points to the low market value of its substance. Signs are that the content of the law was affected by, among other things, the fact that it was drafted by Sergey Glazyev, the well known "etatist" and chairman of the Duma Economic Policy Committee.

The main objectives of the law, as declared in Article 1, are "to protect the economic sovereignty and ensure the economic security of the Russian Federation." These objectives defined the provisions on export-import control and a state monopoly regime on certain types of goods and services. In particular, export control extends to "weapons, military equipment, some types of raw materials, technology," and so forth, which are used in developing mass destruction weapons, their missile delivery vehicles, "and the most dangerous types of weapons." In Article 19 ("Bans and Limitations on Export and/or Imports, Proceeding from the National Interests"), first on the list of restrictions is "public morality, and law and order;" sixth is "the national security of the Russian Federation," and the last is "the fulfillment of international obligation of the Russian Federation."

The federal government has retained the prerogatives to define customs tariff rates "within the limits established by federal laws," and to impose export and import quotas. The distribution of quotas and the issue of licenses in the event of quantitative limitations being imposed proceed via auctions and competition. The lists of goods whose export and/or import is subject to state monopoly are defined by Russian Federation laws while licenses for the conduct of this activity are issued by the government "exclusively to state unitary enterprises."

Britain's economic prosperity in the 18th century was preceded by the maximum liberalization of export-import operations. True, the British conquered the rest of the world by exporting textiles and other consumer goods. But, as the scandal over the "nuclear" contract with Iran showed, many domestic exporters are not unwilling to repeat the British experience, by selling weapons and military technology to whomever comes along. Therefore measures of state control, for all their weakness "market-wise," will, in all likelihood, be received with understanding in GATT and other international organizations.

Property Committee, Consortium Sign Memorandum

MK1305125095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
13 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "State Property Committee and Consortium of Russian Banks Sign a Memorandum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Belyayev, chairman of the Russian Federation State Property Committee; and Vadim Potanin, chief of the consortium of Russian banks, have signed a memorandum confirming that the consortium's proposals for giving the state loans in return for collateral in the form of the state-owned block of shares in privatized enterprises were approved in principle and adopted as a basis. The document, to be finalized together with interested agencies, is due to be submitted to the government for consideration within two weeks. Under the new agreements, the bank consortium will become a bank community that will be open for any interested financial institutions to join.

Stocks Down 5% After St. Petersburg Share Crash

LD1505101695 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0917 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, May 15 (FIA) — Brokers Friday cut their prices for shares in St. Petersburg Bank by a massive 27 percent, driving the Interfax Banking Average down 5.5 percent on the day, in a move analysts are linking with plunging demand for bank stock in Russia's Northwest. Traders are waiting for news on which bank will get lucrative St. Petersburg city government accounts. Promstroybank St. Petersburg still looks the most likely candidate, but even its share price has taken a tumble.

Promstroybank (Russia) bounced back Friday with an 11 percent gain, after its Thursday 14 percent plunge. Unikombank slipped 2 percent.

The Interfax Oil & Gas Average Friday rose 1.3 percent as Surgutneftegaz joint-stock company advanced 7 percent after a slight decline. LUKoil was up 0.75 percent. Its daughter companies Langepasneftegaz, Uraineftegaz and Kogalymneftegaz did even better, notching up gains of 5.81 percent, 5.95 percent and 3.78 percent respectively. Komineft, Kondpetroleum and Noyabrskneftegaz all slipped, but by less than 2 percent.

The Interfax Nonferrous Average slipped 0.2 percent, mostly because dollar-denominated stock depreciated in ruble terms after the Russian currency's surprise Friday 18-point gain on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. Krasnoyarsk Aluminum shed 0.24 percent.

Aluminum processor Samara Metallurgical Company soared 12.5 percent and Norilsk Nickel gained a solid 2 percent. The remaining nine issues in the index stayed put.

MAY 15 INTERFAX STOCK INDEXES

Interfax Index	Index from Dec 1	Change in % from previous day	Change from previous day
Banking Average	91.03	94.50	-2.278
Oil & Gas Avera	128.95	101.30	+0.650
Nonferrous Aver	171.08	99.80	-0.110

Financing Center To Be Created To Oversee Credit Use

LD1205184395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1619 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 12 (FIA-Interfax) — Russia will soon create a Federal Project Financing Center to supervise the use of credits granted by international financial institutions.

Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin told the international conference titled "Russian Enterprises in Search of Investments" in Moscow Friday [11 May] that the creation of such a structure had been necessitated by "the unsatisfactory situation with using western credit resources."

According to Yasin, "so far the funds granted have been used inefficiently." In addition, a part of already granted credits have never been asked for due to various reasons, he added.

Among such projects, he highlighted a rehabilitation loan of $2 billion by France's Societe General and U.S. citibank to the Russian oil-producing enterprises Chernogorneft, Permneft, Nizhnevartovskneftegaz and Tatneft, guaranteed by the Ex-Im Bank of the U.S.

Deficit To Be Financed From Noninflation Sources

LD1205105195 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0950 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 12 (FIA-Interfax) — The Russian government will be able to finance this year's federal budget deficit (73.1 trillion rubles) exclusively from sources that will not result in a rise in inflation. Finance Ministry [as received]

Vladimir Panskov has told Interfax's Financial Information Agency.

He said that the analysis of the general economic situation in the country and the execution of the federal budget in January through March had showed that the government had computed its financial potential correctly.

Panskov said that government securities would remain the chief means of financing the budget deficit. However, the Finance Ministry still has to artificially restrict the placement of short-term government bonds (SGB) in the financial market, because it is unprofitable for the government to attract money from commercial structures for three to six months.

"When inflation is down to two to three percent in the third and fourth quarter of the year, we shall resume the issue of SGBs on a mass scale, but for much longer terms", Panskov said.

He believes that the situation regarding attracting people's savings and free reserves of commercial banks will improve when the government authorizes the issue of new federal loan bonds having both ruble and currency denominations.

Under the 1995 federal budget law the deficit will be compensated for at the expense of internal sources (32.57 trillion rubles) and external borrowings (40.6 trillion rubles).

Tax Reform To Be at Top of 1996 Economic Agenda

MK1305114095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Tax System Reform"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Next year we will be seriously involved with tax reform, Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Shatalov said yesterday. Presently the shortfall of taxes to be paid toward the budget is, according to experts' assessments, 30 to 40 percent of calculations, which cannot be tolerated any longer, he said. The Finance Ministry hopes that the State Duma will pass a new Russian Federation Tax Code this year. Changes in Russia's tax system should have an evolutionary character and be aimed at achieving similarity between the laws in effect in Russia and countries of Western Europe. Failing this Russia would not be able to join GATT and other organizations. Sergey Shatalov said.

Draft Agreement Approved on IBRD Loan for Housing

MM1605102995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 May 95 First Edition p 3

[Russian Federation Decree No. 362 "On Signing the Agreement Between the Russian Federation and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on a Loan To Fund the Housing Project," signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated Moscow, 18 April 1995; carried under the heading "Housing Loan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Government resolves:

1. To adopt the proposal of the Russian Federation Ministry of Construction, coordinated with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy to sign the Agreement Between the Russian Federation and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on a loan of U.S $400 million. to fund the housing project.

To approve the draft Agreement provisionally agreed with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

To permit the Russian Federation Ministry of Construction in coordination with the relevant federal organs to make amendments and additions to the draft Agreement which are not of a fundamental character.

To instruct A.B. Chubays, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, on reaching agreement with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to sign the said Agreement on behalf of the Russian Federation.

2. On signing the Agreement indicated in Point 1 of this decree, the Russian Federation Ministry of Construction in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, and other interested federal executive organs, are to ensure the implementation of measures necessary for the Agreement to come into force and submit the corresponding proposals to the Russian Federation government.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Moscow, 18 April 1995, No. 362

Jan-Apr Industrial Output Down 6% on 1994

MM1605101295 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 16 May 95 p 1

[BIZNES-TASS report: "So That's How It Is: The Clothes at Our Markets Are Mainly From Abroad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the first four months of 1995, Russian industry produced output (work, services) to the tune of over 250 trillion rubles [R] in current prices. This is 6 percent lower than last year's corresponding indicator. The Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics informed BIZNES-TASS of this.

The greatest increase in production in January-April 1995 as compared with the same period last year was observed in ferrous metallurgy — 10 percent, and the chemical and petrochemical industry — 8 percent. The production of output in light industry has fallen by 41 percent, and the food industry by 13 percent.

International Affairs

Official Urges Cooperation With NATO

AU1505115495 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 May 95 p 7

[Article by Borys Kozhyn, Ukraine's people's deputy and member of Ukraine's Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Defense and State Security: "Ukraine's Security in the Context of NATO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, in accordance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NTP], signed and ratified by Ukraine, and also with the Memorandum on Security Guarantees, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States have confirmed their commitment to Ukraine's independence and sovereignty and to maintaining existing Ukrainian borders and their obligation to refrain from threats of force or use of force against Ukraine's territorial integrity or political independence. In this situation, complicated by the flawed national military doctrine and the deployment of another state's [Russia] armed forces on the territory of Ukraine, the question acquires a more alarming aspect and generates new questions: What kind of efficient contemporary mechanisms for containing aggression are available? In which case can we rely upon our own efforts and in which — count upon understanding and support of international organizations?

In order to obtain clear and unambiguous answers to these questions, Ukrainian officials recently had a number of important contacts with high-ranking NATO officials.

A fundamentally new practice of political consultations with NATO, in accordance with the formula "16+1," was initiated in March 1994 by the meeting between Ukraine's deputy foreign minister and members of NATO's Political Committee. There is no need to stress the importance for Ukraine of such contacts and of the experience of cooperation with the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and with members states of the alliance. It is a wonderful opportunity to make ourselves heard in Europe, to directly relate to the world community Ukraine's point of view on issues that are of utmost importance for us, and to have a channel of influence on the formation within the framework of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and NATO of such political decisions as would conform to Ukraine's national interests and national security.

Between 5 and 8 March 1995, during the visit to the NATO headquarters in Brussels, a group of Ukraine's people's deputies and representatives of Ukraine's state bodies had an opportunity to participate in discussions with officials of NATO's international and military apparatus and obtain important information on the current policies of NATO, first and foremost in what concerns the "Partnership for Peace" program.

It must be pointed out that the framework of cooperation between Ukraine and NATO is determined by those possibilities for the development of the dialogue and cooperation with Central and Eastern European countries that ensued in connection with granting those countries the status of NATO "partners" and creating a mechanism for such cooperation. The North Atlantic Cooperation Council that Ukraine joined in March 1992 is among the most important elements in this mechanism. A new trend of a more individualized cooperation between the NATO members states, mainly in the military and political sphere, was opened up by the "Partnership for Peace" program initiated in January 1994. Ukraine signed a framework document of this program on 8 February 1994. At meetings in Brussels, I became convinced that the "Partnership..." is a vision of joint stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic Region that may only be achieved through cooperation and joint actions. Protection and support of basic human freedoms and rights, guarantees for democratic control over armed forces; military cooperation with NATO, participation in joint operations under the auspices of NATO or the OSCE, joint military exercises and so on with a view to future integration within the military system of the alliance; development, jointly with NATO, of partnership programs for each particular partner; establishment of permanent and reliable ties with the headquarters and subdivisions of NATO, exchange of military information; coordinated planning of financial [oborotni] tasks; mutual consultations with any active participant in the program if that participant feels direct threat to his country's territorial integrity, political independence, or security.

I am convinced that this has become possible owing to NATO's timely response to those changes that have taken place in Europe at the end of the 1980's and beginning of the 1990's. However, since the founding of the Alliance in 1949, its goal was to ensure collective defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. Initially, the treaty was signed by 11 states. Today, NATO unites 16 independent states within a voluntary security system whose members share a joint risk, responsibility, and obligations. In NATO, there is not a single authoritative body that would impose its will upon the organization's members states. Nor can a single state impose its will upon others. Decisions are adopted if there is consensus of all members of the alliance without exception. It must be pointed out that NATO unites both nuclear and nonnuclear (13 out of

16) states, but all of them may discuss nuclear policy. It is very encouraging that leading principles of NATO's functioning are as follows: Open exchange of opinions among governments; interests of individual states are taken into account irrespective of their economic, political, or military importance; an understanding of the fact that, for successful cooperation, one needs to heed obligations and not just rights. NATO's internal structure is flexible and adaptable to changes in the political situation. The Declaration adopted in Rome (November 1991) has the following point: "The world has changed dramatically. This was largely promoted by the North Atlantic Alliance. The nations of North America and the whole of Europe may now unite in a commonwealth whose participants will share common ideals, based upon freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. NATO, as a driving force of changes, a source of stability, and an invariable guarantor of security for its members will continue to play a key role in building a new and strong peace in Europe — a Europe of cooperation and prosperity." NATO's new strategic concept outlines a broad approach to security, based upon dialogue, cooperation, and provision for collective defense capability. It harmoniously unites political and military aspects of NATO's security policy and regards cooperation with new Central and Eastern European partners as an integral constituent of the alliance' strategy. That is why Ukraine must make decisive steps toward NATO, because it is only gradual admission to the alliance that may provide guarantees for Ukraine's security.

I believe that Ukraine must now take a more active part in the work of NATO and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and offer for discussion important questions associated with the national security. It is necessary to consecutively explain Ukraine's position, especially regarding nuclear weapons. A change in the attitude of NATO's member states to our state must guarantee our security. Starting from January 1994, NATO's communiques have invariably expressed conviction that "an independent, democratic, and stable Ukraine will make its contribution to strengthening security and stability in Europe," and therefore, there is a "hope that relations between Ukraine and NATO will continue to develop." The political dialogue between Ukraine and NATO is promoted by mutual visits of plenipotentiary delegations, as mentioned above. We need ongoing consultations and cooperation on the problem of security and related issues, in particular, in those spheres, where NATO may share with us its experience and information, namely: On the planning of defense, the democratic concept of relations between civilian and military structures; scientific and ecological cooperation; coordination of activity on military and civilian services of control over air traffic; conversion of defense industry, and so on.

In the military sphere, it is worth pointing out, in addition to official contacts and exchange of delegations, the participation of Ukraine's Armed Forces in multinational exercises "The Bridge for Cooperation" and the "Movement for Cooperation" that were held during the fall of 1994 on the territories of, respectively, Poland and the Netherlands; the participation of Ukrainian officers in seminars, training courses, and military training institutions of NATO. The "Partnership for Peace" program has opened up before Ukraine new and extensive possibilities for ensuring its vitally important interests.

In order to further develop Ukraine's cooperation with NATO, including that within the framework of the "Partnership..." it would be worthwhile accomplishing the following:

— to complete the development of an individual partner's program with concrete proposals;
— to develop an official state concept of relations between Ukraine and NATO and to continue the practice of political consultations in accordance with the formula "16+1";
— to delegate Ukrainian representatives to consultations within the framework of NATO on nuclear weapons in conformity with the NATO Council decision of 15 February 1995;
— to delegate Ukrainian specialists to important undertakings on issues of NATO's specialized and technical bodies. To develop and offer to NATO a program for exchange of officers at lower and medium levels;
— to inform Ukraine's scientific community in greater detail about conditions for participation of individual Ukrainian scientists and scientific-research institutions in programs that are financed by NATO;
— to regularly hold joint symposiums and conferences at civilian and military levels both in NATO member states and in Kiev.

I believe that the planning and holding of all such measures must be the task of Ukraine's Supreme Council Standing Commission for Issues of Defense and State Security.

Kiev Insists Kuchma Participate in G-7 Summit

LD1505194695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev insisted on participation of President Leonid Kuchma in the Halifax summit of the G-7 at the Ukrainian-U.S. negotiations held in the Ukrainian capital on May 11, Secretary of the Presidential National Security Council Vladimir Gorbulin told correspondents.

"We still think that the President's address to the summit would clarify the Ukrainian situation from the point of view of Chernobyl and economic problems. Ukraine will never tackle the Chernobyl problem on its own," said Gorbulin.

In his words, Kuchma tried to explain to U.S. President Bill Clinton that it is a comprehensive problem that includes security, social protection of the Chernobyl plant personnel and compensation of energy losses. "We have not received a positive answer, we will still have to work on it," he added.

At the same time, "the White House head understands that everyone will have to work on the problem."

Commenting on the Kiev visit of the U.S. president, his assistant Mike Maccarry told Interfax that Bill Clinton is optimistic about the Ukrainian people and its leaders. In his words, the current situation differs greatly from the one in January 1994 when the U.S. president visited Ukraine for the first time. Today the Ukrainian people is much more optimistic and hopeful, he said.

The Kiev visit will make the Ukrainian-U.S. relations the closest since the time Ukraine proclaimed its independence.

Asked about possible U.S. participation in solution of several problems in Ukrainian-Russian relations, the assistant said that willingness and invitation of both sides are necessary for success of this mission. According to him, Ukraine has shown some interest in a certain U.S. role in this respect, but the Russian wish is also necessary.

Ukraine, U.S. Reach Air Traffic Accord

LD1605084695 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian and U.S. Governments adopted amendments to the 1990 agreement on air traffic [word indistinct] which was signed between the United States and the former Soviet Union. The terms of the agreement now apply to Ukraine. According to the agreement, each of the two parties may nominate not more than four airlines to operate combined flights, passenger flights as well as passenger and cargo flights between the two countries and not more than two airlines to operate cargo flights. Flights from the United States to Odessa and Kiev will be operated by U.S. and Ukrainian airlines with transit through four European cities which will be named later. Ukrainian airlines will operate flights between Ukrainian cities and New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Los Angeles, and three other U.S. cities. Flights operated under co-sharing agreements may also pass through some U.S. cities.

As of today, only Air Ukraine operates flights to the United States. Its IL-62 aircraft flies from Kiev to New York three times a week and to Chicago once a week. Airlines from those countries are allowed to operate 18 combined flights to and fro and four cargo flights per week. The chosen airlines will also be able to organize charter flights between Ukraine and U.S. cities. The number of charter flights may not exceed 150 combined and certified cargo flights per year. The protocol will remain in force till the end of 1996 and will provide a legal basis for the drafting of a U.S.-Ukrainian agreement on air transport. Work on the agreement is due to begin this summer.

Lvov Deputies Oppose Gas Deal With Russia

LD1505201895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1220 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lvov — "The establishment of the Haztranzyt joint venture marks the beginning of Russia's new colonial policy in Ukraine," says an appeal by Lvov regional council deputies to the Ukrainian president and Supreme Council concerning an agreement between the Ukrainian Government and the Russian Gazprom company to set up the Haztranzyt joint venture, Viktor Kobzarenko, press secretary of the Lvov regional council told UNIAN.

The agreement gives the joint company control over Ukraine's main gas pipelines and most promising gas deposits, including those at Bilche-Volitsa and Ugersko.

The appeal says that these deposits are an integral part of Ukraine's gas pipeline system and their separation from Ukrhazprom enables Russia to receive considerable hard currency profits from free ownership of shares without having to invest a cent, while potentially depriving Ukraine of its ability to provide gas storage services to European countries.

Lvov regional council deputies demand that the agreement between the Ukrainian Government and the Russian Gazprom be annulled as one which fails to meet Ukraine's national interests, necessary government resolutions be taken to ensure implementation of the Ukrainian law on energy saving, and a law on pipelines be passed in the near future.

British Minister Optimistic About EC Loan

LD1505142495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1229 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, May 15 (Interfax-Ukraine) — British Minister of Finance Kenneth Clarke, currently in Kiev on an official visit, believes that Ukraine will have no problems in gaining 85 million ECU [European Currency Units] (some $110 million) from the European Union for support of its payment balance and economic reforms.

When meeting acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk today, Clarke said that the issue will be discussed at a meeting of EC Ministers of Finance in June 1995.

Great Britain is planning further bilateral aid to Ukraine via the Know-How Fund, said the official.

Marchuk thanked Clarke (British parliament member — IF-Ukraine) for ratification of the Ukrainian-EU agreement on partnership and cooperation on April 18 by the British House of Lords. Marchuk assured the visitor that the Ukrainian reform policy is irreversible.

On the same day Clarke met Ukrainian First Vice-Premier Viktor Pynzenyk.

The First Vice-Premier reminded Clarke that "Europe promised to render 85 million ECU worth of financial aid to Ukraine in 1994, and some 300 million ECU in 1995." He stressed that this money is necessary for Ukraine "for successful implementation of economic reforms."

In the words of Pynzenyk, Ukraine had difficulties with servicing of its foreign debt in the first quarter of this year. The spending on these purposes exceeded twice the amount of foreign currency proceeds, he said.

On Tuesday Clarke will visit the Crimea to meet heads of the Crimean government and leaders of Crimean Tatars. He will visit a plant processing gas condensate. The plant belongs to a British-Ukrainian joint venture.

Udovenko Says Chinese Nuclear Test 'Unexpected'

LD1505181495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1723 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, May 15 (Interfax-Ukraine) - Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennady Udovenko told journalists in Minsk today that the report on China testing nuclear weapons was, to him, "unexpected."

He repeated that the Ukrainian delegation at the New York conference on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) had spoken in favor of signing an agreement on completely stopping nuclear tests. "This is the firm and consistent position of Ukraine," Udovenko said.

He repeated that Ukraine and Belarus had "carried out their historic duty" and joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as non-nuclear states.

Commenting on the testing of nuclear weapons in China, Udovenko said, "We hope that the nuclear powers will find a common language on the problem."

Udovenko said that the Chinese leaders have probably decided to carry out nuclear tests "proceeding from the country's national interests and we must take this into account."

However, Udovenko said that he was grateful to the Chinese government for giving to Ukraine security guarantees as to a non-nuclear country joining the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Senko said that his country's position on nuclear disarmament "completely coincides with the position of Ukraine." He said he did not have much to add to what the Ukrainian foreign minister had said.

Crimean Speaker Calls OSCE Roundtable 'Success'

LD1505182095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1440 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol — The conference in Switzerland was a success for Ukraine, noted Serhiy Tsekov, speaker of the Crimean parliament, in a speech at a meeting of the Crimean Supreme Council Presidium on 15 May about the participation of Crimean MP's in the work of the "roundtable" meeting on Crimean issues, which was organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE].

The information about the trip by Ukrainian and Crimean delegations, which took place 11-14 May has been included on the agenda for a session of the Crimean parliament that is to take place on 17 May.

National Affairs

Securities Issued To Pay for Russian Gas

AU1505123695 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 11 May 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "We Will Pay for Gas with "Debt" Securities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By the end of the current year, the Ukrainian government intends to issue securities worth a total of $1.4 billion.

They will be transferred to the Russian side to cover part of the debt to the Russian Joint-Stock Society "Gazprom" [Gas Industry] in conformity with the Russian-Ukrainian governmental agreement "On Principles for Settling Ukraine's Debt for the Natural Gas Supplied by Russia in 1994 and Ensuring Current Payments for Natural Gas Deliveries in 1995" signed in Kiev on 20 March.

It is assumed that these securities will be distributed on Russia's secondary market. Their holders will get the right to take part in the privatization of Ukrainian enterprises. Serhiy Osyka, Ukraine's vice premier and acting minister for external economic ties, believes that securities issued by the Ukrainian government will not be in high demand among Russian businessmen.

They may be redeemed within 12 years with a two-year benefit period. Besides, holders of bonds will have the right to use them to purchase shares in Ukrainian enterprises at privatization auctions at the usual terms. The acting minister pointed out that this does not enable them to purchase much property.

Parliament Chairman Criticizes Economic Reforms

LD1605104995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 16 May 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, May 16 (Itar-Tass) — "The President's course of economic reforms has not been realized. The living level of the Ukrainian people continues to decline and crisis phenomena are strengthening. Ukraine is becoming one of the poorest countries in the world".

This statement was made by Alexander Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, at a session of the Ukrainian parliament which resumed its work after May parliamentary recess.

In his view, economic reforms in Ukraine have taken the form of the redistribution of property. In the first quarter of this year the gross domestic product reduced by ten per cent and revenues to the state budget almost halved.

According to Alexander Moroz, the executive power does not pay the necessary attention to the priority branches. "There seems to be an impression that the leaders of the executive power are saying one thing but doing quite the other", the chairman of the Supreme Soviet stressed.

"The President's administration is paying more attention to politics than to the economy", he noted.

Alexander Moroz believes that criticism of the parliament by the President's administration is unfounded. He called the leadership of the executive power for coordinated actions and refusal to hold any referendums.

The chairman of the parliament proposed to exclude any confrontation between the legislative and executive branches of power in the economic sphere.

Political Groups Drafting Power-Sharing Agreement

LD1505195895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, May 15 (Interfax - Ukraine) - A new power sharing deal between the executive and legislature now being drafted by all factions, except the left wing groups, binds the sides to coordinate effort in implementing political reforms, forming a new government and pushing ahead with drawing up the country's new constitution.

The 56-article bill provides for a clear-cut devolution of power between the president and Supreme Soviet (Verkhovna Rada).

Our correspondent says the draft envisages a ban on any polls on the country's integrity and sovereignty until a new basic law is approved or on a non confidence vote against the head of state or the Rada.

Its preamble binds the signatories to take urgent measures for national unity on the basis of economic recovery, the build up of a democratic state, ensuring social security safeguards and respect for human rights.

The deal will be in force until a new constitution has been adopted.

The power sharing bill proposed by President Leonid Kuchma last December is to be put for a second reading in parliament soon.

Tsekov, Meshkov on Situation in Crimea

WS1605103095 Donetsk DONETSKIY KRYAZH in Russian 28 Apr-5 May 95 p 1

[Report on interview with Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman Serhiy Tsekov and former Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov by DONETSKIY KRYAZH special correspondent Dmitriy Kornilov; place and date not given: "It Is Already Hot in Crimea" — first two paragraphs published in box]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yes, there is really someone who does not want citizens of the CIS countries to relax in Crimea this season. Every day, it is getting hotter and hotter there. However, this is not due to the weather.

Since we wanted to have an objective opinion about the developments in Crimea, DONETSKIY KRYAZH special correspondent went to Simferopol and asked two well-known Crimean politicians — about whom the Ukrainian media prefer to talk a lot, but for some reason do not give them opportunities to talk — for interviews.

Serhiy Tsekov: "We Do Not Violate the Law."

While we know quite a lot in Donbass about Meshkov, Bagrov, Franchuk, and some other Crimean activists, including some family details, when it comes to the head of the Crimean Supreme Soviet he is so far a "dark horse." He has never strived to "be in the first rows," although he is by no means a newcomer to politics. Five years ago, in the wake of total separatism when he was a Ukrainian Supreme Council deputy, Tsekov was one of the three deputies who voted against the Declaration of Sovereignty. People in Crimea remember that until he got actively involved in politics, he was quite a good surgeon. Tsekov unwillingly attracted attention, when after Meshkov's dismissal, he became "the first official of the Crimean Republic."

This is perhaps Tsekov's first interview for a Donetsk publication. He was asked to provide some comments on the hue and cry that was raised after his speech delivered in the State Duma.

[Tsekov] The most sorrowful thing about it, is that the hue and cry was raised before my speech. After I had received an official invitation to speak before the Russian State Duma, I held a preliminary meeting with State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin. We concluded that it is necessary to convince the Ukrainian Supreme Council to take a middle course which would allow regulation of mutual relations between Crimea and Ukraine. Together with Rybkin's Deputy Gennadiy Seleznev we arrived in Kiev, and discussed the issue with Moroz, Tkachenko, and other members of the Supreme Council leadership. I personally suggested that the "Law on Division of Powers Between the State Authorities of Ukraine and Crimea" be passed, on which we could base a draft of our constitution. There were also other projects for a compromise resolution. However, we did not have a constructive conversation. Everything boiled down to the fact that I was strongly advised against speaking before the State Duma. I was not even asked what I specifically wanted to speak about. They authoritatively stated that my speech in the State Duma would violate the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Even then, I told the Supreme Council speaker that there are no legal grounds for drawing such conclusions. I did not violate a single Ukrainian law. Why, for instance, can the leaderships of Russian autonomies travel around the world, speak before parliaments, and even criticize Moscow, and nobody perceives this as interference in Russia's internal affairs? For example, Karelia signed an agreement with Turkmenistan, and nobody objected.

In relations with Crimea, official Kiev overstepped all conceivable and inconceivable limits. Ukrainian laws, Crimean laws, the Constitutions of Ukraine and Crimea, and many international legal norms have been violated. I believe that we can expect illegal and radical decisions by the Ukrainian Supreme Council or the president.

Nevertheless, all Kiev's activities by no means can change the Crimean electors' attitude, and their orientation toward Russia, and toward a union of Ukraine and Russia.

For Crimea, the most optimal scenario would be the creation of the [Soviet] Union — naturally not in the old form — primarily between the Slavic republics. [end Tsekov]

Serhiy Pavlovych spoke for a long time about developments preceding the present time; he analyzed Kiev's activities and Crimea's errors. In addition, he admitted that he is also responsible for everything that occurred. He wished the people of Donbass to be firm in achieving goals that are ahead of the region. He also pointed out that the principal reason for the problems that we are currently undergoing, lies in the fact that we allow errors to occur by choosing politicians whose words, unfortunately, do not match their actions. "We have to firmly uphold the stance of the unification of our nations, and understand that Ukraine can become a real democratic state and can develop only under condition of integration with Russia and Belarus."

Yuriy Meshkov Lives in the Parliament

Yuriy Meshkov's office is on the sixth floor of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, close to Serhiy Tsekov's office. As we know, the appropriate nameplate has vanished from the building but the door-plate "Yu. A. Meshkov" is still hanging on his office door. There are more security guards at Meshkov's office than at the office of the Supreme Soviet speaker, but fewer visitors seem to be coming there these days. In the room adjacent to the reception hall I noticed signs of a regular household: One can hear the rattling of dishes; obviously dinner is being cooked.

[Kornilov] Yuriy Oleksandrovych, what are you doing these days?

[Meshkov] I am constantly here, in the Supreme Soviet building, since, unfortunately, there is no other possibility to work. However, endless attempts to deprive me of this shelter are still being made. Do you remember the story about "planting a bomb" in the Supreme Soviet? These attempts will fail.

[Kornilov] Do you sleep here?

[Meshkov] Yes, I have changed to a 24-hour work shift, the "siege regime...." Despite the president's daily work, I am actively working on restoring human rights in Crimea. After all, whatever we say, the laws and Constitutions of Ukraine and Crimea are obviously being violated. All I can do now is try to mobilize the public opinion of Crimea, Ukraine, and Russia; I am involving the representatives of political organizations, public opinion, international organizations, particularly the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe — all those who claim to protect human rights — in the resolution of current problems.

[Kornilov] I remember our discussion in Sevastopol two years ago. I asked you, then Peoples'Deputy Meshkov, whether in your opinion Crimean problems could be resolved positively when more democratic organizations, for instance the Ukrainian Civic Congress [UCC] come to power in Ukraine. You responded then, that it would be a blessing for entire Ukraine, but here in Crimea you would not like to be dependent on this. Was it not a mistake to refuse participation in the Pan-Ukrainian political process? Just before meeting me, you met with the chairman of the UCC, while Crimea's Russian Movement became a faction of the UCC. Can we believe that the attitude toward "mainland" Ukraine has been reviewed in Crimea, and there is a wish to cooperate with Pan-Ukrainian organizations?

[Meshkov] Naturally, it is necessary to use all existing possibilities to reach common targets. Our targets have always been common. There may be certain region-specific features in the activities of our organizations, however there is the same concern, the same suffering, and tragedy — common to entire Ukraine.

I wish your paper success. Thank you for the support I was given by DONETSKIY KRYAZH a year ago. There are many common issues between Donbass and Crimea. We always look at Donetsk with hope, anticipating moral support in such difficult moments. We hope that through common efforts we can overcome the critical, abnormal, and appalling situation in Ukraine, for which its leadership is responsible. [end Meshkov]

Hardly anyone could dispute the fact that as Crimean president, Yuriy Meshkov made a lot of mistakes. However, we have to remember that a year ago, Meshkov's victory was perceived by democratic Ukraine as a victory over the nationalist nomenklatura. After almost three-fourths of the electors voted for Meshkov, many people believed that it was possible to implement certain changes in a peaceful and democratic way. Many people were really happy about Meshkov's victory, as they were later happy about Leonid Kuchma's victory. Crimean politicians seem to have drawn the following conclusion: It is not safe to fail the electorate's expectations. Will Kiev understand that?

Crimean Supreme Council Factions on Political Crisis

LD1505153095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1220 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol — "We are not capable of getting anything done, and the only way out is for parliament to dissolve itself," said Crimean Supreme Council deputy Vasyl Burdyuhov at a meeting between parliamentary factions today. "This would be the only honest way out. If, on the other hand, the Supreme Council of Ukraine is to dissolve the Crimean parliament, there will be no more Crimean republic and no more Supreme Council of Crimea," he warned.

The meeting was attended by deputies from the Kurultay, Reform, Crimea, and other factions.

Deputy Serhiy Nikulin said the Crimean Supreme Council's Presidium and speaker should be the first to resign, for trying to "pit different regions against one another as in the Dniester region, Abkhazia, and Chechnya".

The factions will reassemble after a break to discuss an appeal to Crimea's population.

Crimean Deputies Urge Compliance With International Law

LD1505195795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, May 15 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Forty members of the Crimean parliament urged the people of Crimea to act in strict compliance with international law and current legislation and exert every effort to promote a stable and calm political situation.

"We, members of the Crimean parliament, taking positions of economic and political realism, legality, law and order believe that the sole mode of action for us is to perform our duties in keeping with the Ukrainian Constitution, other legal acts of Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea," the appeal says.

The Crimean parliament has 98 members.

In March 1995 the Crimean parliament was split and 40 of its members came out in support of Kiev's resolutions on the Crimean issue. A majority of Crimean parliament members want greater independence for the autonomy.

The authors of the appeal called on all political forces to unite "in the name of building an economically stable Crimea and restoring its statehood on a legal basis."

The message says that the presidium of the Crimean parliament must be dismissed. The authors of the appeal said that those who disagree with them should step down.

Those Crimean parliament members who put their signatures to that message are going to raise the question of no confidence in the parliamentary presidium and speaker at the full-scale session on Wednesday. If that question is included in the agenda, the Crimean parliament will be offered to discuss the question of disbanding itself. If that question is not discussed, the authors of the message will ask the Ukrainian parliament to disband the Crimean legislature.

RF Deputy Foresees Crimea's Integration

954F2276A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 95 p 1

[O. Yegorova report: "Who Needs Whom More?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of the Supreme Council of Crimea an official delegation of the State Duma of Russia headed by Deputy Sergey Baburin visited the peninsula to take part in the festivities connected with the 50th anniversary of the victory. It also included Zhanna Lozinskaya, representative of the Duma's Women of Russia faction, and Deputy Vladimir Frolov of the communists and also Valentina Goydenko and Sergey Shatokhin, two experts of the State Duma.

The guests from Moscow visited army garrisons and the hero-city of Kerch, took part on 9 May in the ceremonial parade in Simferopol, and addressed those assembled outside the Supreme Council of Crimea building, which, undoubtedly, caused a certain excitement not only among the people, who gave the Russians quite a tumultuous welcome, incidentally, but in the power structures also. Specifically, Yuriy Meshkov, who for the holiday had left his residence and joined the festive column, appeared very happy. In addition, in a speech to the people Sergey Baburin referred to him as none other than the president of Crimea. Without any "ex" prefix.

Following the brief public meeting, in which parliamentary speaker Sergey Tsekov took part also, the Muscovites held a press conference for representatives of the news media. As Aleksey Melnikov, deputy of the Supreme Council of Crimea, who anchored it, observed, this was the first official delegation of the representative body of Russia to visit Crimea. In brief opening remarks S. Baburin thanked the Supreme Council of Crimea on behalf of the State Duma of Russia for the invitation to take part in the celebration of the 50th victory anniversary, making no secret here of the fact that the delegation had met with representatives of the community of the republic and official statesmen, specifically, Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, and President Yuriy Meshkov. Problems of a constitutional nature were discussed here, and the question of what the parliament of the Russian Federation might do to ease the situation and assist the inhabitants of the republic was considered. S. Baburin expressed the hope that the meetings that had been held would enable the delegation to formulate proposals on this issue for the State Duma and the Supreme Council of Ukraine, were the Duma to adopt them, of course.

Responding to a journalist's question, the leader of the delegation warned some people against a desire to project the situation in Chechnya onto the Republic of Crimea. He expressed here the belief that the problems of Crimea, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation could be resolved painlessly only by way of the establishment of a unified federative state. It is a great pity, Sergey Baburin said, that this is not understood or cannot yet be understood by the current presidents.

As far as the assistance which all those who come to Crimea promise is concerned, S. Baburin recalled that, having come to the peninsula for the first time as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation in January 1992, he had promised the Crimeans that he would raise the question of recognition of the unlawfulness of the decisions of 1954. And he had kept this promise. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation adopted in 1992 a decision which recognized the anticonstitutionality of the transfer of Crimea from Russia to Ukraine and declared the need for negotiations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine with the participation of official representatives of Crimea and with regard to the opinion of the people of Crimea. "So if we promise something now, we will keep this also," the Russian member of parliament declared.

Sergey Baburin attempted to dispel the doubts of another representative of the news media apropos the possibility of the reconstitution in short order of a unified state even on the principles of federalism by his own profound conviction that the question of integration was anything but a distant prospect. He termed the main obstacle to its realization the "generation of destroyers which is currently in power in the majority of republics of the former Union. As soon as these politicians are a thing of the past, and we shall not have to wait decades for this, several months will be sufficient, the question of integration will be put seriously on a practical footing. Particularly if a more consistent policy is pursued by the leadership of the Russian Federation. A new one, God willing."

Sergey Baburin's conclusion of the press conference was not all that optimistic, if not to say prophetic:

"While marking off today a 50-year period of peace, we could with the demolition of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact and with NATO's approach to the borders of present-day Russia find ourselves faced with the next world war. This is not a joke or intimidation on the part of the patriotic forces. It is a geopolitical reality."

In this situation, in the opinion of the State Duma experts, it is not Crimea that needs Russia but Russia that needs Crimea, because its loss has weakened drastically the defense of Russia's southern borders.

So the words spoken by S. Baburin at the public meeting to the effect that Crimea never was and never will be foreign for Russia were pivotal. Although they have not lost their populist connotation here. Unfortunately.

Call For New Parliamentary Elections

954F2277A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 May 95 p 1

[Statement of the Political Council of the Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea Party: "The Current Moment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The onset of spring has brought Crimeans a new twist of the political crisis. Its scale on this occasion has far surpassed that of the fall and has gone far beyond our republic, bringing the level of confrontation between Ukraine and Russia to a new critical mark.

This is happening on the eve of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War, not Russian, not Ukrainian, but Soviet, achieved thanks to the unity, friendship, and mutual assistance that existed between the fraternal peoples at that time.

It is to the benefit of certain forces within the CIS and outside today to support nationalist intoxication, impeding the natural, organic, and historically determined rapprochement of the peoples and states. The key to the resolution of a multitude of today's problems, with which their governments cannot cope by themselves, lies in integration.

In spite of the established custom of seeking the causes of the crisis outside of the peninsula, we have resolved to begin the analysis with Crimea, with an evaluation of the actions of local politicians. Adopting the alien slogan "Crimea—Bridge Between Ukraine and Russia" and not comprehending its essence, the ruling majority of the Crimean Parliament has as a result of rectilinear and, at times, reckless actions discredited this idea, not having known how to establish a constructive dialogue either in Crimea between the branches of power and the political parties or between Crimea and Ukraine and, even less, Ukraine and Russia. Today they are attempting to hold out "to the end," appearing in the halos of martyrs.

As of the first days of the formation of the new authorities, the SPRK [Union in Support of the Republic of Crimea] Party addressed to the president, the Supreme Council, and the government proposals concerning constructive cooperation and suggested its ways out of the crisis. They all went begging, more, they were rejected by personally ambitious Crimean leaders, for whom conquest of the "power Olympus" had been all too easy. But coming to power on a wave of bare carping and populist promises proved far simpler than preserving it and making judicious use of it for the good of the people of Crimea and their young republic.

Personifying the highest and, consequently, wisest power, the Supreme Council should also bear the highest responsibility for its actions. But today it has nothing of which to render account to the electorate other than the well-known "Herostratus-like victories": It itself stripped its president of his authority, itself confirmed in helter-skelter fashion the government headed by A. Franchuk, itself appealed to the people of Crimea not to vote at the elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

The Duma speech of S. Tsekov, speaker of the Supreme Council of Crimea, acknowledged that the present leadership of Crimea also has made many mistakes in its work, mainly from inexperience. But which of the mistakes have been rectified? At what price? And have the members of parliament acquired that missing experience which enables them today to accuse others of betrayal of the interests of Crimea, incompetence, and sundry mortal sins? It is not known on what grounds deputies of the Supreme Council arrogated to themselves the right to call representatives of the local authorities traitors: merely because they have different views on the current processes and more practical experience and real responsibility to people for the state of affairs locally?

The parliamentary crisis, successfully termed the "centrifugal syndrome," continues. Possessing merely the rudiments of political arithmetic, the Russia ruling bloc has attempted and continues to attempt to decide all questions from the standpoints of bare statistics, that is, the Russian-speaking majority. They have now gone so far in their confrontation with Ukraine that they are, obviously, not in a position to find a constructive way out of the current crisis.

The SPRK takes a negative view of the actions of the group of members of parliament of the Supreme Council of Crimea who have declared themselves the so-called Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and believes that the way to the real solution of the protracted crisis of power does not consist of more intra- parliamentary "rotations" but of all deputies' relinquishment of their powers and the holding of new elections. This decision was adopted at the Second SPRK Congress in February. Crimea needs statehood, it needs a Supreme Council, but in terms of its content and professional level this authority should correspond to the demands of supreme power. We agree with the Supreme Council of Crimea on one thing: "Only the electorate of Crimea is entitled to form the highest representative body in Crimea."

The SPRK categorically rejects all inventions and insinuations in respect to the fact that the decision adopted at the congress is connected not with defense of the interests of the Republic of Crimea and Crimeans but was imposed by certain political circles in Ukraine and Crimea. This is a well-known and dirty method—to accuse others of one's own sins, to heap on them responsibility for one's own mistakes, and to portray them as enemies of one's people into the bargain. These are manifestations of myopic petty politicking.

And if today the question of early Supreme Council elections is being raised also by certain other parties of Crimea at different ends of the political spectrum—the Crimea Economic Revival Party, the Communist Party of Crimea, and the Russian Party—this is merely proof of the objective nature of our evaluation. The SPRK would remind Crimeans here that in calling for new Supreme Council elections we by no means intend to organize a "parliamentary leap- frogging" because we have never believed and do not now believe that any Crimean party can ensure in Crimea civil accord and lead society from the crisis. Our position remains invariable: open constructive dialogue, interparty cooperation, and the coalition principle of formation of the executive based on recognition, respect, and unconditional conformity to a system of the natural rule of law.

Russian Party Decries Reporting Distortions

954F2277B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Russian Party Refutes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Readers of the newspaper KRYMSKAYA GAZETA were probably somewhat shocked when they came across the report of the respected INTERFAX Agency on the May Day meeting of the Russian Party of Crimea held in Simferopol in the issue for 4 May 1995. At this meeting, in the agency's version, party leader Sergey Shuvaynikov called for Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, to be held personally responsible — "up to and including execution."

The press office of the Russian Party of Crimea lodges an emphatic protest in connection with the deliberate distortion of individual expressions of representatives of the party in general and of its leader in particular. Sergey Shuvaynikov's speech truly did contain words concerning the personal responsibility of the speaker of the parliament of Crimea, and the words "up to and including execution" referred to the responsibility, more precisely, irresponsibility, of the "pro-Russia and Russian-speaking provocateurs" summoning the Russian people in Crimea to the barricades and endeavoring to ignite a military conflict on the peninsula.

The press office goes on to note that the news media have as of late been deliberately suppressing statements of the Russian Party of Crimea or presenting them in a distorted form in deference to their political positions. All this is seen as a continuation of the campaign of Russophobia, when there is a desire to make an "enemy image" out of Russian patriots or to caricature them.

The KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA editorial office emphatically disagrees with the last part of the statement and suggests that representatives of the press center read not closely but, at least, simply read the newspapers published here in Crimea.

Spent Fuel Problem Closes Zaporozhe Nuclear Reactor

LD1505131995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zaporozhye May 15 (Itar-Tass) — The administration of the Zaporozhye nuclear power station had to decide on shutting down the second reactor of the station for the reason that the problem of storing spent nuclear fuel has not yet been solved in Ukraine.

The first reactor was stopped for current repair with partial reloading of fuel in the second half of April. The reactor pool in the hermetic zone of the plant has been filled with spent fuel rods to such an extent that complete fuel discharge has been impossible, so it has been decided to transport fuel from the first reactor one to the second reactor, and the second reactor was shut down for repair for 33 days for the purpose. Thus the failure to solve the problem of importance to Ukrainian nuclear power plants leads to the stoppage of operation and to losses in the output of electricity.

There were six occasions of malfunctioning at the Zaporozhye nuclear power station in the past month, while there were seven such occasions in April 1994. Only one of them will probably be classed with the first level, while all others were below the international scale for faulty functioning at nuclear power plants. All operations of the nuclear power plant are conducted strictly in accordance with norms and safety rules. The radiation background and gamma-radiation at the station and in its zone are not above the background indexes for the area.

Belarus

Ukraine's Udovenko Signs Cooperation Accord

WS1605101995 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0805 GMT 16 May 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to reports from the press center of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko began a two-day official visit to Belarus on Monday, 15 May.

The aim of the visit is to discuss the issues involving mutual relations as well as mutual cooperation between Ukraine and Belarus. He will also discuss the agreement on friendship, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations signed between the two countries, as well as join in preparations for a planned visit to Belarus by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Mr. Udovenko is expected to meet with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus, Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir, and Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko.

On Monday, 15 May Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko met with his Belarusian counterpart Uladzimir Syanko. The two foreign ministers discussed the present state and prospects of relations between their two countries.

An agreement on friendship, good-neighborly relations, and cooperation between Ukraine and Belarus was signed on the first day of Mr. Udovenko's visit. The Ukrainian foreign minister said his current visit should serve as an impulse to further development of relations between the two countries.

Mr. Udovenko later laid a wreath to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He is due to meet with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir on Tuesday, 16 May.

Syanko: Rapprochement With Russia Poses No Threat

LD1505205795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2025 GMT 15 May 95

[By Igor Ruban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, May 16 (Itar-Tass) — Rapprochement with Russia does not pose any threat to Belarus' statehood. The only point is to preserve its sovereignty, the Belarusian foreign minister said on Monday [15 May].

Speaking before reporters, Uladzimir Syanko supported a viewpoint, now gaining stronger grounds among politicians, according to which Belarusian foreign policy was leaning towards Russia. Most important in the economic integration with Russia is to preserve the sovereignty of Belarus, Syanko stressed.

Commenting upon recent parliament elections, Syanko said it was not surprising that only 18 deputies had been elected to the country's Supreme Soviet. "We are not used to vote in general elections and choose one out of many candidates", he noted.

The foreign minister did not rule out a possibility of the Belarus parliament being dissolved. He referred to a question Belarusian president Alyaksandr Lukashenka put on a nationwide referendum asking voters to empower him to dissolve the parliament. The referendum was held on Sunday, along with elections.

"Hypothetically, everything is possible. There will not be any tragedy about it, but in a broader sense, we need the parliament. Because the absence of legislative government will negatively affect both domestic and foreign policy of our state", he said.

Customs Accord Protocol With Russia Signed

WS1505113195 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0900 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the evening of May 12, after a three-hour discussion and the specification of some points the prime minister of Belarus Mikhail Chyhir and the vice-premier of the Russian government Aleksey Bolshakov signed a protocol on the completion of the first stage of the implementation of the Agreement on a Customs Alliance between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation. In the document the two sides established the full or partial fulfillment of a number of terms stipulated for the first stage. Among them are, in particular, the abolition of tariff and quantitative restrictions in mutual trade, the achievement of full congruence of the trade regimes of the two states with respect to third countries, the signing of an agreement on joint efforts for the guarding of the state frontier of the Republic of Belarus, the successive abolition of customs control in the railway transport system and air passenger communication between the two countries, as well as a number of other domestic and interstate procedures.

During the talks the sides recognized the terms of the first stage to be fulfilled. Besides this, they declared it expedient to transfer customs control to the external border of the Republic of Belarus, go over to the realisation of the second stage of forming the customs alliance, and specify before July 1 the plan of joint arrangements for its realisation.

As Mr Bolshakov told the press after signing the protocol, in general the work done may be assessed as the completion of a part of the first stage, during which a normative base for the removal of all customs barriers between the two states was prepared. The practical removal of customs barriers may be expected, according to Mr Bolshakov, only after a meeting of the heads of Belarus and Russia during the summit that is to take place in Minsk on May 26. The second stage of the creation of the customs alliance envisages the unification of the price policies and economic legislations of the two countries, the creation of a payment alliance. In his opinion, "now the chief thing is to be through with at least one stage in order to determine the team that will work in the future for the welfare of the further economic integration between Belarus and Russia."

Citizens Favor Economic Integration With Russia

LD1505133095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 15 May 95

[By Larisa Klyuchnikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK May 15 (Itar-Tass) — Ivan Korotchenya, Executive Secretary of the CIS, is satisfied with the results of the May 14 referendum in Belarus and, specifically, with the fact that citizens declared for economic integration with Russia. He said the preliminary results for the referendum according to which most voters answered "Yes" to the four questions of the referendum and, specifically, declared for economic integration with Russia were not a surprise to him. Ivan Korotchenya was on Sunday reelected deputy to the Belarusian parliament.

Korotchenya said that during his canvassing campaign, at numerous meetings with voters, he got convinced that Belarusian citizens cannot visualise their life without close ties with Russia. Korotchenya himself answered in the affirmative all the questions of the referendum. He believes Russia rightly holds a special place among states of the Commonwealth, being as if its generator, since most economic ties, because of the earlier situation, are based on the Russian economy.

Russia sets the example of conducting economic reforms which are more intensive in Russia than in other Commonwealth countries. Having a high intellectual and scientific potential, Russia suggested and prepared a considerable number of treaties in the framework of the CIS. Korotchenya noted with satisfaction the ratification by the Belarusian Supreme Soviet of the Russian-Belarusian treaty which was further developed, specifically, in the Agreement on customs union.

Russian Duma Deputy Zatulin on Customs Agreement

WS1505114195 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0900 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A group of official supervisors of the State Duma of Russia is staying in Belarus. "For some reason we have not received an official invitation on the part of the leadership of the Republic," the chairman of the committee of the State Duma of Russia for CIS affairs and links with compatriots Konstantin Zatulin declared at a press conference, "our arrival is bound up with the stay of a group of supervisors representing the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe."

The composition of the Russian delegation is highly representative. It consists of members of the democratic, agrarian and communist parties, the "Democratic Choice of Russia" and "Women of Russia" parliamentary factions, as well as the group "Russia." "We have no intention to look in every ballot-box," Mr Zatulin said, "but we will do our utmost to participate in all official procedures, to visit as many polling stations as possible and not only in Minsk but also in Brest, Homel, Mahilyow, Hrodna, Vitsebsk."

Touching on the results of the talks of the government delegations Mr Zatulin stressed the utmost importance of the completion of the first stage of the realisation of the Agreement on a Customs Alliance, according to which the customs barrier between the two states is to be eliminated as soon as the end of May. Control over transit goods via Belarus to Russia will be exercised at the external border of Belarus.

In this regard a customs representation headed by the deputy chairman of the Customs Committee of Russia Valeriy Doroganov will be established in Minsk. In Mr Zatulin's opinion, it is essential to agree the price policies of the two countries, create common methods of pricing, and equalize prices on the home markets of Russia and Belarus. As for the prices on energy resources, according to the protocol, Russia has pledged to equalize them before July 1.

"The importance of the event that took place in Minsk lies in the fact that we have passed from declarations and various mutual assurances to the practical realisation of our alliance. This is evidence that the Belarusian land can give birth to processes contrary to the event that took place at Viskuli," Mr Zatulin said.

Foreign Observers Satisfied With Elections

LD1505145695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1246 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, May 15 (Interfax-West) — "Belarusian leaders have done everything they can to ensure democratic parliamentary elections," international observers representing the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly stated in Minsk on Monday [15 May], summing up the results of the parliamentary elections on Sunday.

They noted however, that it was early yet to assert that Belarus has risen to the European democratic standards, which may authorize its admission to the Council of Europe.

They said that the law on elections was "complicated, particularly the procedure of advancing candidates."

They also announced that the election campaign experienced financial problems and the candidates had limited access to the media.

The results of the elections will be discussed by the 34th session of the Parliamentary Assembly in June 1995.

Democratic elections are one of the main terms for admitting Belarus to the Council of Europe. Currently, Belarus has the status of an official observer in this organization.

OSCE Observers on Fairness of Elections

WS1605111995 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0830 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly monitored the elections in the Republic of Belarus on May 14 at the invitation of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation, which was led by Dr Willi Fuhrmann, member of the Austrian parliament, consisted of 10 parliamentarians from 6 countries.

On election day members of the delegation visited 70 polling stations throughout the country. On the results of its work the delegation has issued a press release in which it is pointed out that the delegation considers that these elections did not meet all international standards for free and fair elections. It is noticed that the executive branch had an inappropriate involvement in some aspects of the electoral process. The interpretation of the election law regarding the principle of equal opportunities, including access to the media and campaign funding, resulted in insufficient information on parties, candidates and their platforms. The government's interpretation of the majoritarian concept severely inhibited political party activity during the campaign. The delegation also holds that the executive power interfered in the electoral process through the distribution of biased information concerning the referendum and some parties. Such biased, official information was present at many polling stations. In the press release it is pointed out that numerous complaints were lodged from the state and independent media regarding the firing of editors for covering campaign/party issues, biased coverage of opposition parties and candidates, state publishing houses denying access to print for some publications. The delegation also observed other irregularities such as many voters collecting, marking and depositing multiple sets of ballots for both parliamentary and referendum questions. Although this was deemed not intentional on the part of authorities, it belied the fact that an insufficient effort was made to educate voters on correct procedures.

Outcome of Referendum Viewed; Lukashenka Comments

LD1505195095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over 83 percent of the voters supported Sunday making the Russian a state language on a par with the Belarusian.

According to the Central Election Commission, three quarters of the voters agreed to reinstating the flag and coat of arms of the Belarussian SSR minus the hammer and sickle or the motto Workers of World, Unite.

President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's policy of integration with Russia was supported by 85.4 percent.

He is empowered by a vote of 77.6 percent to disband parliament if it systematically or crudely violates the Constitution.

Vladimir Zametalin, head of the presidential press service, told Interfax that Lukashenka won support for all his initiatives and that following the referendum the right-wing national radicals have no moral right to claim power in the country.

Lukashenka told journalists at a voting station where he arrived with his elder son that if the nation votes for giving the Russian an equal status with the state language, the Belarusian, nobody will harass anybody into using the Belarusian by forcibly introducing the Belarusian in universities and schools. He does not doubt that the people will support his view that the country should be officially bilingual. "One has a right to decide for oneself what language to speak," Lukashenka said.

He said that the outcome of the referendum will dictate political decisions but the goal of the referendum was to determine the direction in which the state should develop.

Lukashenka does not think that the relations with Ukraine should deteriorate if the people support integration with Russia. He said that he had talks with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma who is partial to the idea of Slavic unity.

Lukashenka said he did not vote for any of the nine candidates in that constituency. He explained that he knew nothing of the platforms of eight of them and did not want the ninth, Gennadiy Karpenko, regarded as a major political opponent of Lukashenka, to be elected.

IF Note: According to the Central Election Commission, the parliamentary elections in Belarus were valid. The 260 seats in a new Supreme Soviet were claimed by 2,483 candidates. The final results will be announced Tuesday, May 16. At least 10 deputies were known Monday morning to be elected in the first round, in particular Ivan Korotchenya, CIS executive secretary, and the president's special aide Viktor Kuchinskiy. Parliament chairman Mechyslaw Hryb has made it into the second round.

Lukashenka did not think that more than one fifth of parliament will be elected in the first round.

He said that his decree calling for equal opportunities for all the candidates had been violated on numerous occasions. (IF Note: the decree bans use of their powers or departmental cars by officials in their campaigning).

Lukashenka said that he will submit a report on violations of the decree by numerous candidates, who have made it into the second round, to the Central Election Commission. He explained that on the basis of that data the commission has a right to ban the offenders from taking part in the second round of the elections.

IF Note: Council of Europe's observers said in Minsk Monday that the restrictions specified in the decree have not been applied in many other democratic countries and voiced an opinion that the Belarusian leaders made their best to have the most democratic election possible in the country. The observers promised that the results of the Belarusian elections will be debated at the 34th session of the council's parliamentary assembly next June.

Asked by journalists whether they regard the Sunday elections as democratic, the observers could not respond unambiguously. The observers said that the Belarusian election legislation is complex. This is especially true of the candidate nomination procedure.

Holding democratic elections is a major condition for adoption of Belarus into the Council of Europe where it has now the status of an official invitee.

Lukashenka said that the West's policy towards Belarus worried him. In particular, he said, U.S. president Bill Clinton has visited Moscow and Kiev but not Minsk because he does not like Belarus's independent policy, in particular that it suspended the destruction of weapon surpluses under the CFE Treaty, Lukashenka thinks.

He also complained that the International Monetary Fund refused to grant Belarus a credit even though similar credits have been made available recently to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. Lukashenka is under no illusion that the credit was not granted for political rather than economic considerations. He made it clear that he will not beg the U.S. or Germany or any other country on his knees.

He flatly rejected the possibility of holding a referendum on extension of his term as the Kazakh president had done. Lukashenka did not think that this kind of referendum was democratic because the people had no choice.

In his view, the Kazakhstan referendum was needed only for the president to hold on to power.

Commission Head Details Election, Referendum Results

WS1605111795 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0830 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to data voiced by the chairman of the Central Commission for Elections and National Referendums Alyaksandr Abramovich at the concluding press conference, 64.5 percent of the voters registered took part in the voting on May 14. The greatest activity was displayed by the residents of the Minsk and Brest regions 69.5 and 69.1 percent of citizens attended polling stations there, respectively. In the Vitsebsk region 66.7 percent of voters took part in the voting, in the Homel region — 66.6 percent, in the Hrodna region — 65.2 percent; in the Mahilyow region — 64 percent; in the city of Minsk — 52.2 percent. 19 MPs were elected in the first round. Among them are Viktar Kuchynski, the President's assistant for special commissions; Anatol Lyabedzka, the President's adviser; Vasil Sakovich, chairman of the Control Chamber; Uladzimir Hancharyk, chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus; and Ivan Karatchenya, CIS executive secretary. In 27 constituencies, including 11 in Minsk, less than half the voters attended polling stations and the results of the voting will be declared there null and void.

The second round is to take place on May 28. It will be held with the participation of well-known politicians such as Zyanon Paznyak, Stanislaw Shushkevich, Henadz Karpenka, Vyacheslaw Kebich, Uladzimir Karyahin. All the four questions of the referendum received a majority of "for" votes. The first question — on the granting of the Russian language status equal with Belarusian — was answered in the affirmative by 83.1 percent of the voters registered (the greatest number of "for" voters was fixed in the Mahilew region 90.4 percent). The second question — on the change of the state symbols — was answered in the affirmative by 75.0 percent (84.0 percent in the Mahilew region). The third question — on integration with Russia — was answered in the affirmative by 82.4 percent (86.0 percent in the Vitsebsk region). The fourth question — on the President's right to dissolve the parliament — was answered in the affirmative by 77.6 percent (84.9 percent in the Mahilyow region).

Executive Branch Said Working To Falsify Referendum

WS1605102195 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0830 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The election headquarters of the Belarusian Social-Democratic Hramada [Assembly] [BSDH] has made a statement in which it is pointed out that in defiance of the legislation currently in force the executive power together with regional and district election commissions formed so-called "working groups." In the opinion of the BSDH leaders, conditions are being created for falsifications, as these groups are to work with protocols and other material concerning the results of the first round of the parliamentary elections and the national referendum. "If the results prove to be unacceptable for the President," the statement reads, "he will get the opportunity to declare the results of the expression of the people's will invalid."

Former Premier Views Lukashenka, Referendum

WS1505134595 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 11 May 95 p 3

[Interview with former Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich, by Vyachaslaw Zyankovich; place and date not given: "I Have Never Been Alyaksandr Lukashenka's Political Antipode"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zyankovich] There are more and more frequent backstage deliberations in political circles about the probability of a "Lukashenka-Kebich" alliance. There are rumors, for instance, to the effect, that the president intends to remove Stanislaw Bahdankevich from the post of National Bank chairman and appoint Prime Minister Chyhir to that position, while offering you the post of Cabinet head. How true are those rumors?

[Kebich] I do not know anything about Alyaksandr Ryhoravich's plans in that respect. We have met a number of times after Lukashenka's election to president of the state. However, I have never been offered a post in his Cabinet of Ministers.

As for the possibility of cooperation between Lukashenka and Kebich, I have never had any doubts: I have always helped the young Belarusian president, and I will continue to do so, disregarding all personal ambitions.

The point is, that we never had any essential disagreements regarding the economy or politics. It is for this reason that A. Lukashenka was my principal rival during the presidential elections in 1994. I would like to emphasize: That was the only reason, and any other reasons did not exist! The primary significance of the elections was not the fact that the people did not vote for Kebich, and even not the fact that they voted for Lukashenka. The primary significance lies in the fact that the people voted against the adventurist-dilettante ideology represented by the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF], and rejected BNF leader Zyanon Paznyak. This was confirmed by the fact that two candidates made it to the runoff elections — Kebich and Lukashenka. I have never been Lukashenka's political antipode.

[Zyankovich] Your words reminded me of a certain event, which occurred when legislative discussions were held on establishing the presidency in Belarus. One day, you accidentally stopped to talk to a group of deputies, including A. Lukashenka, on the ground floor of the Government Building. I remember Lukashenka's words well: "Vyachaslaw Frantsevich, if you do not agree to introduce the post of vice president by constitutional means, this will be one of the worst mistakes in your entire life." Had you listened to the opinion of Lukashenka — who was ready then to form a Kebich-Lukashenka tandem — you would have remained head of state....

[Kebich] It does not really matter that I was not elected president. Believe me: I have seen too many things in my life to suffer from unfulfilled personal ambitions. I suffer for other reasons. As a man who is accustomed to thinking in a statesmanlike manner, I feel anxious about the situation that has developed in the economy....

The young state leader is "growing" fast, and successfully learning practical lessons of ruling the state. The president's potential, however, would be increased if he were surrounded by professionals, and not merely like-minded people: not opportunists who feel warm in the rays of presidential power and in reality, continue to "play their own games."

I understand only too well that certain political schemers, primarily those representing the bureaucratic apparatus, would like my relations with Lukashenka to remain at the level of electoral contests. The electoral campaign is over and this issue should not be dwelt upon any more!

[Zyankovich] Can the public anticipate a "Lukashenka-Kebich" alliance, given that corruption charges against you were never proved or dismissed?

[Kebich] It was not Lukashenka who invented the myth about a "corrupt" Kebich. He was unaware and only repeated the tenets of ideological provocations orchestrated by the BNF and implemented by the then chief editor of NARODNAYA GAZETA and the BNF publication SVABODA. The BNF cunningly used S. Antonchyk, the so-called Free Trade Union's leader, who was Lukashenka's deputy in the Supreme Soviet Commission for Fighting Corruption, and presented the would-be president with a couple of forged reports. This was done to discredit before the public "the procommunist Kebich government" despised by Paznyak.

Believe me, had I or my predecessors made even a petty violation of the law, this would have been immediately reported to the public! In that event, my numerous political opponents would have tried hard, and would have made those facts known to the entire world! However, there was no criminal offense on my part, and the president realizes that. I conceive that a number of officials abused their posts, yet both my family and I are clean in the face of the nation.

Once you have touched upon the issue of fighting corruption, I would like to point out that despite my resignation from the post of prime minister, the BNF continues its destructive policy aimed against the members of the current administration, regardless of whether they held high posts in the state before or were appointed later. I do not know what kind of role belongs to the Prosecutor's Office, yet in my opinion, unmasked acts of hooliganism are being committed against the president and the government!

[Zyankovich] What is your attitude toward the president's initiative to hold a nationwide referendum on 14 May?

[Kebich] This step is logical and correct. Lukashenka's political opponents, mainly BNF activists, believe that by initiating the referendum the president is pushing society toward discord and civil war. I deem such claims as sheer ideological stupidity.

The referendum is another indication of real democracy, which provides an opportunity to learn the opinion of a majority of the people. Tell me, will someone who has lived in Belarus and has spoken Russian all his life grab arms and fight with his neighbor only because the latter believes it inexpedient to grant the status of state languages to both Belarusian and Russian? You should agree that this is simply unrealistic.

The fact that the administration directly seeks advice from the people on the one hand, affirms the presidents' intention to follow the road of real, and not false, democracy. On the other hand, the referendum will unite the people and create conditions for fulfilling the people's specific desire. That is why, the referendum is a factor of stability, and not civil discord. The BNF activists' hysteria in reality, was caused not by concerns for civil accord, but by the realization that a major part of Belarusian society may unanimously express their support for the equality of Belarusian and Russian languages, for instance. In real life, this equality has existed for many decades; it only has to be confirmed!

The orthodox BNF fundamentalists however, cannot "give up their principles" and accept that fact, because that would amount to the end of the political career of the BNF leadership, primarily Zyanon Paznyak.

[Zyankovich] How are you going to vote in the referendum?

[Kebich] I am going to vote for granting the Russian language equal status with Belarusian. The main thing, though, is that I am going to vote for the president's policy directed toward integration with Russia. Everybody knows how much effort I made toward this goal when I was prime minister.

BPF Leader May Sue Over 'Slander' in TV Show

WS1505110695 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0900 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leader of the Belarusian Popular Front [BPF] Zyanon Paznyak defined the documentary by Yuriy Azaryonak "Hatred" which was showed on national TV on May 10 as "untalented and foul slander in the manner of the Goebbels propaganda."

As known in the film its author drew analogies between the activities of Belarusian nationalists in World War II times and the Belarusian Popular Front. According to Mr Paznyak, the methods used by those in power during the current preelection campaign are "a relic of the communist psychology of the thirties, which are out of fashion even in uncivilized countries." The BPF leader also holds that if such a film were shown in a normal civilised society, the television company that organised the showing would become bankrupt. "I can take it to court, and I am sure that I can win the trial, but I will do this after the elections," Mr Paznyak said.

MP Syarhey Navumchyk has more decisive intentions. In an interview with a BELAPAN correspondent he declared that as one of the characters of the documentary he feels hurt and will bring an action against the television company, its chairman Ryhor Kisel, his deputy Pyotr Ramanchuk and the authors of the film without fail. And he will demand compensation at an astronomic volume. "Though I do not need a kopeck from this money," Mr Navumchyk said.

Commenting at the request of the correspondent on the documentary's part about Kurapaty, the investigator for especially important cases of the Prosecutor's Office of Belarus Valeriy Kamarowski, who is in charge of the Kurapaty case, pointed out that "if unauthorised people can draw conclusions in public behind the backs of the organs engaged in the investigation, then this is one more striking illustration that we have no legal state and will not have one in the near future."

Moldova

Lebed on Plans to Downsize, Withdraw 14th Army

MK1305064095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 12 May 95 pp 1, 2

[Interview with General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, by Aleksandr Minkin: "Anticipating War. There Are Thousands of Train Cars With Weapons in Tiraspol" — place, date not given; followed by Minkin commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, is going to hold a news conference in Tiraspol tonight. In the evening you will probably see on your television the 14th Army commander outlining his views regarding his conflict with the defense minister. [passage omitted]

Earlier, Lebed granted us an interview. [passage omitted]

[Lebed] What is the bottom line of this [new] table of organization [of the 14th Army]? For starters, I would say that nothing has changed in the 14th Army's situation in terms of materiel. The number of automatic rifles, machine guns, howitzers, munitions has remained unchanged. Not a single question regarding the withdrawal, pullout, transfer, or sale of this weaponry has been resolved. Ownership problems with Moldova and the Dniester Region have not been resolved either. According to an agreement reached 21 October, Moldova is due to get 35 percent of the property; Russia, 65 percent; and the Dniester Region is not supposed to get anything at all. But the army is deployed on the territory of the Dniester Region, albeit unrecognized. Under the Dniester Region president's edict of 15 February of last year, all weapons, hardware, munitions, other movable property and the real estate of the 14th Army was proclaimed the property of the people of the Dniester Region.

This means that according to one theory the weapons will be split between Russia and Moldova; according to another theory the Dniester Region will take over all the arms. But in practice they are all under the 14th Army's control and protection. Only we strictly prevent them from being pillaged and sold to criminal groups. [passage omitted]

Presently, under the new table of organization, all positions are lowered by one level of magnitude, while relevant pay is lowered 5 percentage points on average. Let's say there is a 45-year-old chief of missile forces and artillery in the army, who has five more years to serve. If he resigns today, he will resign from his current position with an appropriate pension. If he stays, his new pay corresponding to his new position will be approximately 150,000-170,000 rubles lower. This means that his future pension would be dented by 40,000-50,000 rubles. If he is discharged now, this will be done under personnel reduction — this is a good provision and under the law he will be entitled to a fairly considerable retirement benefit. Should he choose to stay, he would risk being thrown out a couple of months later like a dirty stray cat, under an absolutely different provision, to make do with a substantially lower pension. The Defense Ministry directive is prodding people to resign right away. Now I can resign as a respectable man, but if I do not, my future will be extremely dark — just as my social and financial prospects.

[Minkin] Can you say how much of anything is there?

[Lebed] I will not say everything, I will just cite one example. In Tiraspol, there is an engineering depot. Formerly it was subordinated to the district command; I have now inherited it. There is about 41,000 tonnes of engineering property in the depot; divide this by 60 tonnes and you will get the number of train cars. This is a tentative estimate because there are also voluminous cargoes there that are large in size but weigh little. So, there is no decision as to what to do about it. Make any decision: To sell, blow up, transfer, withdraw, carry away, take to pieces, dismantle — just give people a chance to do so in a clear and professional fashion, and then discharge these people or transfer them somewhere else. This is direct logic, while here everything is being done the other way around. First they disband those who can do anything, and then they will be helplessly raising their hands: We have been plunged into chaos and cannot lift ourselves out of it. The state of chaos will be compounded because there are plenty who are laying claim to this property. Let me list them: Moldova (according to the agreement); the Dniester Region (it has dubious grounds, but still there is an edict by the Dniester Region president); next to it there is Ukraine with the UNSO [nationalist organization], which would not mind taking part in the division; there is Crimea, where there are guys who are also very thirsty, plus criminal and Mafia groups that also wait in line, hoping that they will not let their chance slip. That is, by chopping off the army's head the political leadership that makes this decision, in my judgment, plans chaos. Not just chaos, but a bloody chaos, because everyone will be trying to get ahead of the others so as to grab a more juicy, solid morsel. [passage omitted]

[Minkin] How large is the command staff currently and how many people will be left there according to the new table of organization?

[Lebed] The command will be cut more than two-fold. Plus the local authorities will start laying claims to the set of buildings housing the army headquarters. They would say: 97 people in three buildings — isn't it too many, get out of here. This is our territory, our laws. [passage omitted]

When they talk about the 14th Army's withdrawal, I always cannot help laughing, for I do not know a location on Russian territory which I, the commander, has been asked to size up for the purpose of withdrawing one unit or another. A withdrawal calls for a movement from point A to point B. So, we know point A (Tiraspol), while point B has never been named. For this reason any withdrawal is out of the question. One cannot but get the sad impression, which is based, among other things, on the latest statements of Mr. Shumeyko, speaker of the upper chamber of parliament, who did not find five minutes to visit the 14th Army or to send a clerk there, but kept visiting the Kryukov cellars from 1630 to infinity and said, apparently opening the last keg, that there are only 85 Russians in the Russian 14th Army, while the rest are God knows who, so let us start withdrawing weapons.

A month ago there were 10,230 Russian citizens in the 14th Army together with their family members. These are people who can prove their Russian citizenship by documents. Now there are even more such people. Mind you, the very way the question was raised is very peculiar. "I accuse you of being a Turk, an Ethiopian, you name it, anyone but a Russian citizen, and I assume that the Turks and the Ethiopians will be loading weapons to move them somewhere." This is simply not clever. They had to pretend for a certain period of time that these are our people after all. So, being our people, load the weapons, and then we will leave you alone. The deputy foreign minister, Mr. Krylov, who was recently here, also did not have time to visit the dear Russian army, but he suggested that the problem could be resolved fairly easily: First, there are still three years left to build housing; and second, nothing prevents Russian officers from staying here, assuming Moldovan citizenship, and thus saving the Foreign Ministry from this headache. [passage omitted]

There are lots of mutual territorial claims in the region. Ukraine-Romania (over northern Bukovina and southern Bessarabia). Romania-Bulgaria (Dobruja). Romania-Hungary (Transylvania). Just set fire to this powder keg, it will flare up at once. By pulling out relevant documents from the context of history one may simply and easily prove that the Dniester Region is Russia; that the Dniester Region is Ukraine; and that the Dniester Region is Moldova. Everything will be correct, everyone will be right. If you dig at history, everybody will be right in his own way and will come up with a relevant document. And there will be such a mess here... There are considerable reserves of weapons on this "contentious" territory. Just one depot contains more than 2,500 train cars of munitions.

[Minkin] Is it subordinated to you?

[Lebed] Yes, it is. The depot's capacity has been exceeded by over 1,200 carloads. Excessive munitions, if there is no place for them inside, are rusting away out in the open. They have been sitting there for five, seven years or more. Crates have become unfit for use. It turned out that mice like powder: There is a certain ingredient in extra charges for grenade launchers that they find to their liking. In order to reach the powder they like so much they devour crates. There are billions of mice there engaged in this kind of sabotage there. Over 600 tonnes of munitions may not be transported at all — they must be blown up.

[Minkin] Do you have chemical arms?

[Lebed] No. They cannot be blown up because — densely populated areas, you know, all environmentalists oppose that. But these measures should be taken either now or some time later, since the number of faulty munitions will be increasing with every passing month. I have lots of 120-mm mines manufactured in 1938, they are 57 years old this year. Someone had once put them into combat status, that is, screwed in the fuses and forgot to unscrew them. Corrosion has eaten through their cases and fuses — it is frightening just to pick it up:

Who knows what it is up to? All the more so because they did not particularly bother themselves with fulfilling any extra safety requirements in 1938. Everything was simple. Once you turned it, what mattered was that it must be 120 mm, not larger. Attach a fuse to it — hopefully it will fly. They are simply dangerous. The detonation of these mines requires 42 tonnes of explosives; this also takes funds. Where one can get them, is unclear. Everybody is opposed. The established Russian agencies say that they would not withdraw this crap. [passage omitted] [end of Lebed interview]

[Commentary by Aleksandr Minkin]

Lebed is out of favor with Grachev. Lebed's popularity is many times higher than that of the defense minister (such things are never forgiven). When Grachev ordered General Burlakov (Western Group of Forces) to inspect the 14th Army, Lebed said bluntly that he would not let a man whose place is in jail to enter his army. Lebed described in detail, with a serviceman's punctuality, how Grachev was agonizing for two days in August 1991, trying to guess who was gaining the upper hand. And so on and so forth.

But once Lebed has found his way into the political ratings, once he has been named a possible candidate for president of Russia — since then it is not Grachev who has been trying to remove him. Not Grachev alone. Grachev's interests (to get rid of a restive general) and the interests of those for whom Lebed is an unwelcome and dangerous rival have converged.

The communist press, which openly hates Yeltsin, and the government-run ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA have presented a well-coordinated duet with regard to Lebed.

Presidential candidates do not need Lebed. For gentlemen wishing to enter the Duma, however, Lebed is indispensable. He is a locomotive for those who have few chances. He alone would garner enough votes to drag a dozen or two candidates along into the Duma "on party tickets." Given that elections are a costly business (each deputy costs from 1 to 5 billion rubles) the calculation is simple: Either to solicit 40 billion from sponsors, to be humiliated, to assume obligations, and to get oneself marred by dirty money — or to lure a free Lebed instead.

Many would wish to do so. Nearly all parties have visited Tiraspol. Lebed balked, would not sign up with anyone, was rude to the Russian authorities, and bluntly accused the Dniester Region leaders of being criminals. Well, what else would one need — his rating was moving steadily upward.

But suddenly Lebed flew to Moscow, sat down at the presidium of the Congress of Russian Communities, delivered a lengthy speech — that is, plunged himself into a steep political dive. He turned out to be a lousy pilot. A resolute, but rash one. He did draw stormy applause, of course. But what did he gain? Popular love? He had it even beforehand, and it is a question whether it has increased. As for support, he abruptly lost a major part of it. Formerly he was blasted from the right (the authorities) and from the left (Alksnis and others), while the normal press, reflecting the view of the majority, has watched Lebed with sympathy and fear. [passage omitted]

Everything can be explained. Including a steep drop in Lebed's popularity and criticism in the normal press. Lebed came out in defense of the Russian nation, in support of Russians abroad, but the issue is not the idea, however noble it may be. The issue is people next to whom Lebed found himself in the presidium. Skokov, Zatulin, Rogozin... There is no need to list others. They desperately need Lebed as a locomotive.

These figures have long been scurrying around the political backstage, trying to whip up some support. Zatulin tried to take up with Yavlinskiy. Once driven away, he joined Shakhray and Stankevich. Booted out by Shakhray, he found Skokov; will this alliance last for long? In addition, a criminal action is haunting him (as it is Stankevich). Skokov, the gray eminence of 1992, who had traveled all the way through reform together with Yeltsin as Security Council secretary. First he is defending industrialists, then saving Russians... [passage omitted]

I imagine what joy was elicited in the Kremlin by Lebed's joining forces with Skokov-Zatulin. Let him go to the Duma. What will he be doing there? Dashing to the microphone in order "to tell the truth" day in, day out? — He will end up turning into yet another jester. Fistfighting with Marychev? — this will be even better. If he keeps silence, then he will assume responsibility for all obscenities being perpetrated at the Duma.

The steam will be spent on a whistle, and by the time presidential elections are held there will be just a clumsy, civilian, a has-been Lebed. [passage omitted]

Lebed Warns of Danger Involved in Army Reform

AU1405132995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1938 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, INFOTAG, 12/5/1995 — The commander of the Russian 14th Army, Lt. Gen. Alexander Lebed, does not intend to resign unless firm guarantees are provided for the preservation of peace and stability in the Dniester region. He stated this at today's press conference in Tiraspol.

Alexander Lebed has officially confirmed his categorical disagreement with the Russian Defense Ministry's order to re- structure his Army's headquarters. In his opinion, this document is aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region, and it may have very grave consequences not only for Dniester but for the situation in Europe in general.

"This order is a wide-scale crime pursuing an aim of shifting the accents. Its authors are seeking to show: Look, it is not only Russia which is stuck in local conflicts, such as Chechnya. There are other 'hot regions', too!", Lebed said.

He compared his present-day state with that of a man with amputated legs sitting in a bath with hydrochloric acid.

"It is terribly difficult to serve in the Army when you cannot comprehend what your defense minister is doing. It's been very long since I cannot understand his actions. I can understand the head of state who is a very busy man with lots of urgent problems, and he cannot have time enough to go deeply into the essence of many things. I've got an impression that this situation is being very cunningly used by rascals in his surrounding, who often 'use' the president by forcing him to take hasty decisions which inflict great harm to the Russian people, Russian state, and undermine Russia's international prestige", Lebed stressed.

He refused to tell who these "rascals" exactly are, and who he thinks is able to cancel the above ministry's order. He only expressed hope that "wisdom will win", and stated that he will struggle for this by using all possible means, including through close cooperation with the media.

The general expressed bewilderment about the behavior of some Russian politicians, including members of the State Duma, who came to Dniester to observe the recent referendum concerning the presence of the 14th Army.

He was very sharp in commenting the speeches of Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Parliament's Upper Chamber, who stated in Chisinau recently that "the 14th Russian Army employs only 85 Russian citizens, and it shall be withdrawn". On this, Lebed said: "Talking is easier than working. 10,232 servicemen in my Army are Russian citizens, with official documents available with them". Lebed has stated he is not intending to go in for politics. He said he could not predict how the events will develop in near future, for this depends not on him. He stressed that he is working to achieve only two goals: to maintain peace in the region, and to help in settling the problems of those military who are leaving Dniester for Russia.

"In case the Army Command is reformed, the weaponry will be inevitably stolen out, and a new armed conflict in the region will become a reality", Alexander Lebed said at today's news conference here.

He explained that the 14th Army's arsenals are a great attraction not only for Moldova and Dniester. Some shady guys from Abkhazia, Chechnya, the Ukrainian National Self-Defense have been constantly showing up in the region.

"Hyenas hang about a bull as long as he stands on his legs. But as soon as he falls down, they rush to bite off the best pieces. They will unleash a 'prevention war' to catch the best and largest arsenals", the Army commander warned.

However, Lebed did not give any comments about a possible development of the situation in Dniester, having only pointed out that "the region has suffered through an armed conflict recently, and time is necessary to settle all problems politically".

Answering INFOTAG's question about Lebed's attitude to the letter sent by Mircea Snegur to Moscow with a request to keep Lebed in Dniester, the general said, "I do not see any reasons why Snegur should love me with such a passion. But he is a good political mathematician, and has easily figured out that the suggested Army reformation will ruin the existing balance of forces. Everybody knows that Lebed is a hard-tampered man, with very heavy fists..." Alexander Lebed has highly appraised the Russian peace-keeping forces deployed in the region. "The 14th Army could undertake the peace-keeping functions. However, this is already a political decision to be made, not a military one".

He strongly criticized the Tiraspol leadership again, having stressed they are responsible for the drastic situation, "while local residents are the victims of the leaders' arbitrary rule". Lebed explained why the press conference door was closed for the official Dniester media. "We have invited media representatives of all political directions except garbage ones. The Army budget does not envisage money for disinfection of this Headquarters premise", he said.

Foreign Minister Interviewed Before Lisbon Trip

LD1505200095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, May 15 (Interfax) — The interaction of Moldova and Portugal should be more close, believes Moldovan Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov. He gave a brief interview to Interfax on Monday [15 May] before leaving on a two-day official visit to Lisbon.

In the words of the minister, bilateral diplomatic relations were established three years ago, but "political and economic relations have poorly developed."

"We have common Roman roots, and we should interact more closely," said the official. "The Lisbon meetings will make bilateral relations more specific."

Popov is expected to pass over a message of Moldovan President Mircea Snegur to the leaders of Portugal.

Speaking of prospects for Moldovan admission to the Council of Europe, Popov said that "over 80 percent of Council members support Moldovan striving for admission."

He reminded of the Council's plan to discuss the Moldovan admission in late June 1995. "The Moldovan leadership pins great hopes on membership in the Council of Europe," said Popov.

In his words, "the membership will enable more active Moldovan integration with European structures which, in its turn, will facilitate the development of Moldovan democratic institutions."

Tiraspol Parliament Tries To Gain Control Over Media

*AU1505204995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1814 GMT 15 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol INFOTAG, 15/5/1995 — The parliament presidium of the self-styled Dniester Republic has set up a public board for control over the media. Anna Volkova was appointed its chairperson at the presidium's session last Friday [12 May].

Local observers interpret this as Tiraspol's intention to establish control over the media, so that to avoid situations like the one which happened with DNESTOVSKAYA PRAVDA, when the official organ stood in opposition to the authorities. As was already reported by INFOTAG, the Tiraspol city council, one of the newspaper's founders, has attempted to change the political course by having replaced its editor-in-chief.

To further advertise the Dniester statehood, the presidium has established the committee for international relations, a new structure in the local parliament.

It has been decided to devote a special session to problems of observance of law by local law-enforcement bodies. Apparently, the decision is related to the recent information supplied by Dniester Prosecutor General Boris Luchik to Interior Minister Ivan Fucheji [name as received] claiming gross violations of Igor Smirnov's decree on urgent measures to be taken to protect the population from banditism and organized crime.

The parliament presidium has set up a commission for drafting a new Dniester Constitution.

Also, it was decided to establish a currency-credit exchange. As deputy Aleksandr Morozov said, "our industrial enterprises have been placed in incredible conditions due to the fixed exchange rate of the Dniester coupon. If the rate remains fixed, we will die of starvation."

PSDM Chairman Assesses Party Activity

*AU1505205095 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1814 GMT 15 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 15/5/1995 — The fifth anniversary of the Social Democratic Party of Moldova [PSDM] was the subject matter of today's press conference in Chisinau. Its chairman, Anatol Taranu, emphasized that the party had consolidated in the republic's political spectrum, and does not disappear from the political arena.

He pointed out the successes of the party, such as the drafting the privatization program, the working out of proposals for settling the Dniester dispute, and the adoption of the party's program called "The Way for Moldova."

The local elections in April proved that the party is capable of political struggle. "Our failure at the parliamentary elections in February 1994 has been generally overcome," he said. According to preliminary data, the PSDM has some 300 councillors in local power bodies, and its members have been elected mayors in Nisporeni, Taraclia, and in many villages.

According to Taranu, one of the party's faults was the support in 1993 of the proportional system of elections in Moldova, because the republic appeared unable to grasp its essence. "Moldova should switch to the majority system of voting, which would allow personalities to struggle in elections," Taranu said.

In his assessment the appointment of the Chisinau Municipality leaders demonstrated that the PSDM's capabilities are rated fairly low by the Moldovan leadership. "We've got the impression that President Snegur does not need the social-democrats' votes at the 1996 presidential elections. At least, we came to such a conclusion after Snegur has decided to include no PSDM representatives in the municipality leadership," Taranu said.

The presidential elections will be the next major political campaign the PSDM will take part in. "Today, we cannot yet speak about a concrete candidate from the PSDM. The decision will be made later, proceeding from the concrete situation. And we shall fight to have a social-democrat as the next Moldovan president," Anatol Taranu stressed.

Grenade Attack Reported Against Parliament Leader

AU1505204595 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1814 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 15/5/1995 — Last Friday [12 May] night, unknown persons threw a grenade through the window of the apartment where the Deputy Chairman of Parliament Nicolae Andronic lives. The grenade was thrown from the street into the window at the second floor, broke the glass, and, fortunately, got stuck in the curtains.

The military engineers who arrived soon and neutralized the weapon, were very much surprised that it had not exploded. They stated, "such things happen in one case out of many thousands." The police initialed proceedings, and launched investigation.

The terrorist attempt was undertaken on the eve of the deputy speaker's birthday. Most probably, the criminals were aware of that, and attempted the murder exactly at the moment when the whole family were in.

Nicolae Andronic said to INFOTAG he would not offer any comments of the incident or suppositions about anybody's involvement. He only expressed regret that such things are possible in a country which seeks to become a law-governed state and is supposed to provide safety to all citizens, no matter their social status.

Kazakhstan

President Interviewed on Aims of Korean Visit

LD1505144495 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Kazakh 1100 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A state delegation from Kazakhstan led by President Nursultan Nazarbayev left for South Korea on an official visit this morning.

[Unidentified correspondent] According to the members of the delegation, this visit will provide firm grounds for Kazakhstan's wide range of relations with South Korea, which is called one of Asia's tigers, and to attract new investments into our country's economy.

[Correspondent] We feel that the burden of this major visit will not be easy. Will you give us a few words about the purpose of this visit?

[Nazarbayev] In general, our relations with the West are getting better in every way. These days we can say that they are good as regards finance or investments and political relations. So now we have to pay attention to the southeast [Asia]. We must achieve close relations with the new developing countries. There is an economic association called ASSESS [as heard]. We must think about joining this association. On the whole, in developing our policy we must pay more attention to the Asian countries, and we must cultivate their friendship and relations with them.

Of course, relations between South Korea and Kazakhstan are not bad. Their major world-wide famous companies are working in Kazakhstan, including the largest ones like the Samsung and Daewoo companies. There is no legal basis yet for further development. There is no agreement between the two countries.

My first visit to the Republic of Korea was before Kazakhstan gained its independence, before the presidential election in Kazakhstan. That visit had the aim of familiarization. This is now an official visit, at the invitation of the Republic of Korea. There are many leaders of major enterprises and businessmen in our delegation. We must enliven their relations. That is why I consider this visit very useful for our country.

[Correspondent] Bon voyage!

Toqayev: Almaty Should Not 'Exaggerate' Role

LD1505191095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 15 (Interfax) — Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev told Interfax in Almaty on Monday [15 May] that Kazakhstan "should not overly exaggerate its role or respond to absolutely every event in the world." He also said that "Kazakhstan does not rank on a par with such world powers as the U.S. or Russia."

"Kazakhstan is a sound regional power which is playing a key role in Central Asia. This has been recognized by all countries, including Russia and the U.S.," he said.

He also spoke about Kazakhstan's "delicate" geopolitical position. "Kazakhstan is 'in the grip' of two great powers — Russia and China, and is forced to think about its security," said Toqayev.

He said that Almaty had already secured guarantees from the leading nuclear powers — the U.S., Russia, Britain and China.

Toqayev dwelt in detail on the global-regional initiative of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on convocation of a Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia. "This proposal keeps within the Asian framework but influences the fate of the whole world," said Toqayev.

In the words of the minister, this idea is not new. "It was first put forward by the Soviet Union. It suggested to create a system of collective security in Asia. However, historical conditions have changed and the authority of Kazakhstan as a large Central Asian nation, and its leader Nazarbayev has increased."

The Kazakh Foreign Minister is satisfied with support gained by the Almaty initiative "primarily from Asian states. An international group for promotion of this initiative has been formed. In the end of this year — at the beginning of next year there will be a conference at the level of deputy foreign ministers from regional states," he said.

Kazakhstan is doing a great job in the region, stressed the minister. The U.N. decision to hold a regular round of inter-Tajik talks in Almaty is notable in this respect. The decision was supported by both conflicting sides. It proves that Kazakhstan is both large and authoritative state of the region, noted Toqayev.

In his words, Kazakh President Nazarbayev will put forward "major initiatives on settlement of the Tajik conflict" during the negotiations.

"They concern non-stop negotiations process which can be reached only with the sides' observation of the cease-fire agreement," said Tokayev.

In his words, "it is also necessary to decide on the political system in Tajikistan. I do not think that the Tajik opposition will be satisfied with the position of "eternal opposition", and Dushanbe will have to count with this. Maybe, the first step should be a congress of peoples of Tajikistan similar to the assembly of peoples of Kazakhstan. One should not ignore positive experience of the others."

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Tajik Situation

LD1505135095 Almaty PANORAMA in Russian 13 May 95 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Kazakhstan is an authoritative regional power"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to the Republic of Korea will start 15 May. In connection with this, PANORAMA brings to the attention of its readers an interview with Kasymzhomart Tokayev, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, about Kazakhstan's place in the Asian process. [passage omitted]

[Tokayev] Kazakhstan is a benevolent regional power. The UN decision to hold the inter-Tajik dialogue in Almaty — which was supported, incidentally, by both of the conflicting [Tajik)0 sides — is quite natural on this score. This fact shows that our country is an authoritative state in the region, which is in favor of seeking ways for a peaceful settlement to the situation in Tajikistan.

[PANORAMA] What real proposal can be made that will influence the situation?

[Tokayev] I believe that the President will make some sufficiently major proposals on settling the conflict. It is a question of insuring a constant process of dialogue between the Government of Tajikistan and the opposition. However, a cease-fire is necessary in order to make it positive. Second, an appropriate solution to the nature of Tajikistan's political structure has to be found. I do not think that the opposition is content to remain in eternal opposition. Obviously, the ruling regime must take this mood into account. Maybe, as the first step, it is worth thinking about holding a congress of the peoples of Tajikistan, analogous to our own Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan, partially using our experience in insuring interethnic accord. [passage omitted]

[PANORAMA] What was your attitude to the statement by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev about the possibility of using force [to protect ethnic Russians living outside the Russian Federation]? By the way, Kazakhstan did not react to it officially. Why not?

[Tokayev] For us it was possible not to react, given the exclusively friendly nature of our relations with Russia. One must also take into account the fact that Kozyrev himself retracted his words in a later statement.

Canadian Official Reviews Investment in Kazakhstan

LD1605082895 Almaty PANORAMA in Russian 13 May 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Michael Voynovich, the charge d'affaires of Canada to Kazakhstan [name and title as published], answers Panorama's questions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Voynovich, how do you evaluate the dynamics of the development of relations between our countries since the establishment of official relations?

[Voynovich] Eighteen months have passed since the opening of the representative office of Canada in Kazakhstan and, although it is not a very long period, I can boldly say that we are satisfied with the progress of our relations, especially in the sphere of economic cooperation. At the time of the opening of our embassy in Almaty, there were only two or three Kazakhstan-Canadian joint enterprises. Now there are 33. The amount of Canadian investments in the economy of Kazakhstan will be [U.S.] $1.4 billion by the end of the year. Our cooperation is developing especially dynamically in such spheres as the oil and gas complex, gold mining, and agriculture. These are areas in which Canadian businessmen have good experience, and this experience can successfully be implemented in CIS countries to mutual benefit. For example, Canadian firms are now the largest investors in the mining complex of Kyrgyzstan, where 700 people are already working at Kyrgyz-Canadian joint enterprises, the majority of whom are the citizens of Kyrgyzstan.

[Correspondent] What would you like to emphasize as the most successful examples of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Canada?

[Voynovich] First of all these are the oil sphere projects, in the implementation of which the joint enterprises Turan Petroleum and the Canadian companies Pan Canadian and Snow Leopard are taking part. Cooperation has been developed successfully in the gold mining sector recently, and it should be noted here the project is being implemented with the participation of the joint Canadian-American company Goldbelt/Pegasos, as well as the project to develop the Vasilkovskiy gold deposit, which will be implemented by the Placer Dome company.

This very promising project is estimated to be worth more than $300 million. Major new projects will soon appear, new Canadian firms will come to your republic.

In particular, we would like to interest the Government of Kazakhstan in a project to work the Yubileyniy deposit. [passage omitted]

Political Domain, State Movements Viewed

954F2281A Almaty EKSPRESS-K in Russian 12 May 95 p 3

[Article by Alibek Kuandykov, candidate of sociological sciences: "Kazakhstan's Current Political Space and Kazakh National-Political Movements"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zh. Kuanyshalin was victorious in the election not as one of the leaders of the GDK [Citizens' Movement of Kazakhstan] Azat, insofar as he did not receive substantial financial or organizational support from the movement. The factor of individuality, the personality of a political figure, played its role here. The political portrait of Zh. Kuanyshalin, a representative of the "new wave" of political figures, differs from others by virtue of its contrasts and diversity of nuances. It is not without reason that he is known for his abrupt, largely inappropriate reaction to what has taken place. As a deputy of the most recent convocation of the Kazakhstan Republic Supreme Council, he participated actively in all kinds of rallies, demonstrations, and meetings—he himself often being the organizer. He spoke at the international human rights conference in Brussels. In other words, he has employed all forms and methods of acquiring a political image. In the parliament he was thought of as a most obstinate, irreconcilable opponent of the government and official structures.

All other political leaders suffered defeat in the election of the Kazakhstan Republic Supreme Council. The reasons for this were absence of a precisely oriented social base, lack of financial sources for conducting a broad preelection campaign, disagreements among leaders, disjointedness and inconsistency in political programs, and failure to adopt the concept of establishing preelection blocs, which would undoubtedly have systematized the orientation and direction of the preelection political struggle. Following their defeat in the election, several parties and movements curtailed their political activity and moved into the shadows. Only the GDK Azat is presently leading an active political life.

In the search for an additional sphere of active political effort, however, in August 1994 the NDP [National Democratic Party] Zheltoksan, the Republican Party of Kazakhstan, and the official GDK Azat cofounded the people's front Atazhurt. A. Kadyrbayeva was elected chief coordinator. After seven months the people's front Atazhurt has failed to exert any influential political power; as a matter of fact, to this day it has not even passed the registration phase.

The Republican Party of Kazakhstan, headed by S. Akatayev, also failed to locate the effective financial and organizational support required to engage in full-fledged political activity. It too lacks the experience of daily, current political effort.

In comparing the program tenets and charter objectives of the GDK Azat and Republican Party of Kazakhstan, it is not difficult to note that both during the initial stage and as they became established, they set essentially similar goals: immediate adoption of a declaration on the state sovereignty of the Kazakhstan Republic, accelerated adoption of a new Constitution, laws on property, citizenship, and migration, the right to republic internal troop formations and state security organs subordinate to the Kazakhstan Republic Supreme Council, de-partyization and depoliticization of all state institutions, law enforcement organs, KGB, and the army, restoration of republic symbology, etc. All these factors have presently come to comprise the daily activity of the Kazakhstan Republic and naturally influence the vigorous party life of these political entities. At the same time, the program documents of these parties contain themes which take into account recent political and social slogans, insofar as the political interests of society have now crystallized.

A misalignment has taken shape around the National Democratic Party. In April 1994, the Kazakhstan Republic Ministry of Justice denied its registration because certain points of its program contradicted the Kazakhstan Republic Constitution and several other laws. To this day the leader of the NDP, Professor K. Ormantayev, remains within the leadership of the GDK Azat.

Today the GDK Azat remains the most serious political force expressing the interests of radically oriented segments of Kazakh ethnicity. It is assimilating the experience of current party work, moving along the complex path of establishment and development, and preparing for the next elections to the Kazakhstan Republic Supreme Council. It possesses the necessary organizational base to do this—branches in 15 oblasts of the republic. At the recent March conference of its republic coordinating council, the GDK Azat established three working commissions: the Movement of Turkic Peoples, Commission on Land, and Commission on the State Language. The heads of these commissions are Kh. Kozha-Akhmet, B. Darimbet, and K. Asanov, respectively. These commissions include members of the coordinating council B. Kudaybergenov, D. Satybaldiyev,

B. Durmenova, A. Kadyrbayeva, M. Tatimov, Zh. Baynatov, and T. Seytkaliuly, and others.

Today's political situation is prompting the GDK Azat and the Republican Party of Kazakhstan to seek new forms of interaction and mutual relations with similar parties and movements, with the aim of accomplishing the objectives they have set and winning over to their cause the sympathies of the populace and votes of the electorate.

New Political, Economic Situation Forecast

954F2279A Almaty KARAVAN in Russian 12 May 95 No 19, p 6

[Political and economic forecasts from leading political, sociological, and economic figures of Kazakhstan: "Referendum Completed—What Next?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the latest issue of KARAVAN, we invited well-known political figures, sociologists, economists, and prominent personalities in Kazakhstan's political life to provide a forecast of development of the political (1) and economic (2) situation in the country following the recent referendum. Here we continue our publication of the responses received.

Aleksandr Lederer, Chairman of the Council of Germans

1. In my view, the state is moving along a path of experiments and mistakes. Unfortunately, in building a democratic society (even if we are striving to attain it), we are not utilizing the experience of countries that have accomplished similar reforms. It is therefore very difficult to provide a serious political forecast at the present time.

2. There is no doubt but that the production decline will continue. Our economy is overwhelmed by the bureaucratism of state officials who present a model of temporizing behavior, unwilling to think about the future of the state. Corruption and bribery are flourishing, all of which prevents the market economy from developing normally and stifles private initiative. Thus, I am convinced that market transformations in our republic will drag on over a very lengthy period of time.

Sergey Zlotnikov, Executive Director of the "Interlegal" International Charitable Foundation for Political and Legal Studies

1. I do not believe we have ever existed in a democratic state. It is therefore too soon to be discussing any establishment of democracy. A great deal of effort remains to be applied before the model of a truly democratic society comes to prevail in the republic. In addition, in my view, we must delineate precisely between the concepts of totalitarianism and authoritarianism. Although I am an advocate of democracy, I believe that the transition to new economic forms is possible only under an authoritarian regime.

2. In connection with adoption of the new Tax Code, I have come to view the country's future economic development more optimistically. Perhaps this measure will not have an immediate effect on the standard of living, but the new code is more progressive and enables entrepreneurs to bear a less heavy tax burden than before. This is quite significant.

Khasen Kozhakhmetov, Chairman of the Civic Movement Azat

1. Kazakhstan is ever more intensely reverting to the authoritarian path of development. Conduct of the referendum was one more demonstration of this. All international laws were violated, as was the Constitution itself. How can you talk about democracy in such a situation?

2. Without a doubt, the economic situation in the republic is sharply deteriorating. There could be some kind of improvement under an authoritarian regime, in principle, but not in our situation. Especially since the majority of corrupt officials continue to occupy their positions. But it is the people of Kazakhstan who are suffering first and foremost from all the so-called economic transformations.

Kanat Isabayev, Association in Support of the Development of Market Transformations

1. I am convinced that the state is moving along a democratic path. Of course we have relapses, when one high-handed official or another attempts to introduce something not in conformance with the standards of a civilized society. But thanks once again to the efforts of democratic institutions—primarily the democratic press, which bring such instances to public attention in timely fashion, these flashes of postcommunist subterfuge are managing to be suppressed in time.

In addition, I do not think the referendum can threaten democratic gains. Right now the president must show himself to be a democrat to an even greater extent than before. Otherwise the entire world, and indeed, the people of Kazakhstan, will come to doubt the advisability of retaining him in his position after the year 2000. And believe me, we are moving to that point quite rapidly.

2. If the state invests regular assets in the development of production, and if investments received are spent not on official trips abroad for the nomenklatura, but on the revitalization of industry—we will then be living quite

satisfactorily after a certain period of time. But if this is not the case, poverty is guaranteed for us and our children. Thus, everything is quite simple. Tight control must be exercised over the distribution of state funds.

Gaziz Aldamzharov, Cochairman of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan

1. Our mentality has always been oriented on authoritarianism. The referendum confirmed this. Democracy must be learned, and when the head of state emphasizes that our people do not know democracy, he himself is once again stressing our orientation on an authoritarian regime. Having voted in the referendum for concentrated, undivided authority, we ourselves have given our consent to life in an authoritarian society. It remains now for us to respect the laws and strive to see to it that they express the interests of all the people, not just a certain population group.

2. The production decline will continue. One need only look at the statistics. Population income is dropping 30-50 percent annually. No matter what the former Supreme Council was, at least it fought to increase the size of the minimum consumer basket. Today the government is establishing the minimum wage only to the extent of its capability. But capability depends primarily on quality of work. Who can provide any guarantee that this government is today operating better than it did yesterday? It is likely too soon, therefore, to say that the state will begin to prosper this year.

Boris Fedorov, Almaty City Society for Victims of Political Repression

1. Continued term of authority and the perception of one's own independence corrupt a human personality, even a very good personality. George Washington understood this. Therefore, when his term as president ended, he laid down his authority and opened up the opportunity for normal presidential elections, despite the fact that the situation in America was graver then than in the Kazakhstan of today. On the other hand, an individual confident of his own indispensability will not tolerate any objections and will bring persecution to bear against the opposition.

2. Only new people, engaging in new thinking, can improve the economy—not the entrenched postcommunist nomenklatura that has brought the country to collapse.

Ninel Fokina, Chairman of the Almaty Helsinki Committee

1. We presented a forecast of the authoritarian development of Kazakhstan's society in our 1994 report. The regime will be maintained not more than three or four years, after which a systematic democratization will have to begin. Otherwise, the economic situation will simply not allow us to develop.

2. I think we will see an improvement all the same. We will continue to proceed with a one-and-a-half year lag behind Russia.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz Receives CIS Labor, Social Security Ministers

LD1505164695 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1300 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Republic President Askar Akayev today met with the heads of a delegation, members of the Consultative Council on Labor, Migration, and Social Security of the CIS states. They are the labor and social security ministers of the Commonwealth states.

Akayev warmly welcomed the guests onto Kyrgyz soil. Our people are waiting with great interest for the beginning of the work of the Consultative Council, he said. Today social problems are still very urgent and very critical. The head of state told those present about the economic situation in Kyrgyzstan. He said the republic's government is taking steps to mitigate the negative consequences of reforms being carried out.

The president did not conceal that the uncontrollable immigration by rural people into towns where, unfortunately, industry has almost come to a standstill, where there are no jobs, is causing particular alarm. Unemployment in the republic has reached danger point, the president said. Over 10 percent of the able-bodied population is unemployed.

We have created a modern system to address the protection of people. We have registered needy people — pensioners, invalids, students — in every region. I think we have delayed implementing the project. I think the final documents, which the Consultative Council will adopt, will urge the leaders of every state and government of the Commonwealth of Independent States to make a priority of solving the social problems, which are alike in every republic of the former Soviet Union. The questions of social security must be always in the first place for the leaders at all levels. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister, Russia's Chernyshev Hold Talks

LD1505130795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1225 GMT 15 May 95

[By Boris Mainayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BISHKEK, May 15 (Itar-Tass) — The situation regarding Tajikistan and the situation in the CIS were discussed on Monday [15 May] by Kyryiz Foreign Minister Roza Otunbayeva and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chernyshev.

The situation in and around Tajikistan is now complicated, Chernyshev told Itar-Tass after the talks. There is only one way out. All countries of Central Asia, Russia and the Commonwealth should help Tajikistan economically, politically and militarily as much as they can. Tajikistan's border is the southern border of the CIS, and measures should be taken to protect it.

A political process is underway in Tajikistan, Chernyshev said. A referendum has been held, parliament formed, president elected. Economy is undergoing transformations. The advance to democracy is apparent, and this gives reason for confidence. It is in the interests of countries of the region to do their utmost toward the establishment of peace and national accord between the conflicting parties. There exist opportunities for this. The fourth round of negotiations between the conflicting parties is planned to be held in Almaty on May 22. Everything will depend on their goodwill.

The situation around Tajikistan and also a number of problems of Central Asia, the Asian region and the entire Eurasian expanse were discussed during the conversation with the Kyrgyz Foreign Minister, Chernyshev said. Prospects for the development of relations between countries were touched upon. The consensus has been reached that all countries of the Commonwealth should co-exist instead of flaunting sovereignty. This is the way to do good to peoples, Chernyshev said.

Chernyshev left for Almaty on Monday.

Government, Unions Sign 1995 Accord

LD1605071695 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to carrying out concerted actions on the main issues of social and economic policy, and to regulating labor relations, promoting a socially oriented market economy, and increasing workers' social guarantees, stabilizing the social and economic situation and preserving civil peace and accord in the society, the government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan have signed a general accord for 1995.

In the light of this, the sides set out their priority objectives and tasks: ensuring the growth of economy, increasing the employment of the people, developing labor markets, reducing the gap between the cost of living and the people's income on the basis of raising the republic's economy, ensuring that social payments are paid on time, increasing the people's targeted welfare protection, increasing workers' labor security and health at the workplace, ensuring ecological security, preserving the basic foundations of the health service on a government basis, rendering free, urgent and vital types of medical aid to the people, combatting the savage increase in crime, ensuring citizens' personal and property immunity, giving legal security to labor relations, and developing social partnership.

Tajikistan

Ministry Official on Inter-Tajik Peace Talks

LD1505192295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1757 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BISHKEK, May 15 (Interfax) — Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan — observers at the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Almaty, should coordinate their efforts toward a settlement in Tajikistan, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev believes. In an interview with Interfax in Bishkek on Monday, after a meeting with Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Rosa Otunbayeva, Chernyshev noted that "observers need to continue to support Tajikistan's authorities politically, economically and militarily."

He made it clear that Russia would defend the Tajik-Afghan border and take necessary counter moves in the case of opposition sallies.

The high-ranking diplomat noted with satisfaction the formation of political structures in Tajikistan which has had presidential and parliament elections.

At the same time, he noted that "Tajikistan has just survived a civil war, and domestic tension is rather high."

Opposition Attack on Russian Guards Condemned

LD1505170895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1637 GMT 15 May 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, May 15 (Itar-Tass) - The Tajik government condemned the opposition's attack on Russian border guards over the weekend.

One Russian border guard was killed and five were wounded as a result of an artillery attack by Tajik opposition militants on the Afghan border in Tajikistan on Sunday [14 May].

The militants shelled the Merkuri border post of the 12th border guards unit from two directions for more than an hour, the press service of the Federal Border Guards Service told Itar-Tass.

The press service said the border guards fired in retaliation to destroy the militants' firing positions.

The Tajik government said in a statement on Monday that responsibility for the attack and the escalation of tension on the border lies on the leaders of the intransigent opposition.

The government expressed regret that despite the efforts being taken by the Tajik leadership to settle the conflict and restore peace in the republic and despite Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov's statement confirming his readiness to have talks with opposition leader Said Abdullo Nuri, the opposition continues actions aimed at derailing the peace process in Tajikistan.

A Tajik working group was due to leave for Afghanistan on Sunday to prepare for a meeting between President Rakhmonov and Nuri scheduled to take place in Kabul on May 16-18. Reports said the working group would be led by first deputy Foreign Minister Erkin Rakhmatullayev.

Dushanbe attaches "great political significance to this meeting as an important prelude to the upcoming fourth round of intra-Tajik talks to be held in Almaty on May 22," Tajik Foreign Ministry spokesman Zafar Saidov told Itar-Tass.

The Tajik president intends to explain to the opposition leader the government's approach towards the issues connected with the efforts to ease tension on the Tajik-Afghan border, stabilise the social and political situation, restore peace and complete the repatriation of Tajik refuges from Afghanistan, he said.

The government considers Sunday's attack on the post of the 12th border guards unit as a brazen violation of the intra-Tajik ceasefire agreement extended by the parties until May 26 and as an attempt to lead the negotiations into a deadlock.

The Tajik government has repeatedly said that any unlawful actions on the Afghan border will be decisively checked by all available means, the statement said.

It also said that the government attaches great importance to the upcoming fourth round of talks to be held in Almaty on May 22 and is confident that it will lead to a resolution of the conflict.

The Tajik government urged the opposition leaders to renounce any provocative actions on the state border and observe the intra-Tajik ceasefire agreement in order to create the necessary conditions for the continuation of the intra-Tajik negotiating process.

Tajik Opposition Leader Meets Pakistani Envoy

LD1605063695 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0300 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Kabul reports that Prof. Sayed Abdullo Nuri yesterday received Haji Humayun, the ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan, at the latter's request.

The main issue at the meeting was the political situation in Tajikistan, in particular the peace process in the country.

Our correspondent said that the conversation took place in Persian, and that the interlocutors debated issues of great importance. At the end of the meeting, Haji Humayun said he hoped that the meetings between the leaders of the two rival wings in Tajikistan would be the beginning of an approach to lasting peace in the country.

'Subversive Organization' in Dushanbe Thwarted

LD1505192695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1615 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tajikistan's security and interior ministries have carried out a large-scale operation to expose an underground opposition subversive organization operating in Dushanbe since October 1994.

Representatives of the Security Ministry told journalists that during the operation the law-enforcement bodies had defused a projectile targeted at the presidential palace, installed on the roof of a high-riser several hundred meters from the palace. The projectile "did not go off by mere accident."

Dozens of camouflage uniforms, foreign-made short-wave radio stations, thousands of units of ammunition and dozens of automatic rifles and grenade launchers have been confiscated from the terrorists. In the interests of the investigation, the names of the detained terrorists and their two leaders were not announced. It is known, however, that one of them is a resident of commander of the opposition armed forces Rezvon Sadirov.

According to the law-enforcement bodies, charges have been brought against the 15 detained terrorists, all of them Tajik citizens, who underwent training in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

During the past six months, the terrorists attacked various facilities, as well as personnel of the security, interior and defense ministries, the collective peacekeeping forces and Russia's 201st motorized infantry division.

Russian Ruble Withdrawn From Circulation

LD1505131095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1226 GMT 15 May 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, May 15 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian rouble will not be used as of Monday in Tajikistan as legal tender and payment for services of natural and juridical persons, regardless of the form of property. Under a decision of the Tajik government, persons violating this decree will be fined to 100 minimum wages. One minimum wage now amounts to 144 Tajik roubles.

Eleven exchanges are open in Dushanbe to exchange Russian roubles. Several exchanges operate in large Tajik cities. However, visiting a large market in Dushanbe on Monday and watching the functioning of commercial kiosks, Itar-Tass correspondent witnessed that despite price tags in Tajik roubles and advertisements that goods are sold only for the national currency, sales people continue clandestinely to accept Russian banknotes, though with the denomination of no less than 500 roubles.

The ignoring of the government decree is explained not only by a sceptical attitude to the Tajik currency, but also by the shortage of Tajik roubles. The payment of Tajik roubles in savings banks began from this Monday. The number of exchanges opened in Tajikistan is clearly not enough to cope with exchanging money in the days ahead.

Turkmenistan

Slovak Government Delegation Arrives

LD1305163295 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1020 GMT 13 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A high-ranking government delegation from the Slovak Republic arrived in Turkmenistan yesterday, 12 May. The delegation is led by Sergej Kozlik, deputy prime minister and finance minister. The forthcoming intergovernment negotiations in Ashgabat are intended to lend dynamism to the implementation of the Bratislava agreements reached during last November's visit to Slovakia by President Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy of Turkmenistan. [passage omitted]

The priority interests at the talks lie in the spheres of fuel and energy, trade, agriculture, transport, communications, pharmaceuticals, and the footwear industry. Proposals on agricultural processing, production of furniture and medical equipment, and the supply of river and sea-going vessels. In turn, Turkmenistan remains a traditional market for the export of high- quality goods produced by Slovak light industry. [passage omitted]

Slovakia's plans to participate in the construction of the Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey-Europe gas pipelines, and in laying railroads and in arranging two-way tourism will also be discussed.

Delegation Meets President

LD1605055095 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1355 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ashgabat, 15 May (TURKMEN PRESS) — Today President Saparmurad Turkmenbashi Niyazov of Turkmenistan had a meeting with the head of an official delegation from the Republic of Slovakia — First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Sergej Kozlik, Minister of the Economics Jan Ducky, Minister of Transport and Communications Alexander Rezes, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to Turkmenistan Roman Paldan. [passage omitted]

"All the conditions and possibilities are present for deepening cooperation with Turkmenistan, an economically and politically stable state," Sergej Kozlik said during the reception. "We have arrived in Ashgabat with several drafts ready, which once agreed and adopted will undoubtedly push bilateral cooperation ahead. In Slovakia at present there is great interest in Turkmenistan and its first president, Saparmurad Niyazov. Niyazov is known to the Slovak people as a far-sighted leader, who has united his people and is leading them confidently. The policy of President Niyazov aimed at meeting the essential interests of the people is bearing fine fruit. We feel this in Slovak-Turkmen relations as well."

The Slovak side is ready to participate in the construction of large economic projects in Turkmenistan. Slovakia intends to cooperate in laying pipelines for Turkmen energy resources to foreign countries, in building railways and roads, as well as in developing the chemical industry. [passage omitted]

Expressing his satisfaction with the development of Turkmen-Slovak relations, President Saparmurad Niyazov underlined that all possibilities should be used for the further strengthening of mutually advantageous cooperation between the two countries. The leader of Turkmenistan noted that active work in this direction would be useful for both sides.

During the visit of this representative delegation from the Slovak Republic, it is proposed to sign agreements on establishing of air links and on eliminating bilateral customs duties, as well as a memorandum on cooperation.

Economic Memorandum Signed

LD1505204895 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1930 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit of the Slovak Government delegation and Slovak businessmen to Turkmenistan culminated today in the signing of a memorandum between the Slovak Republic and Turkmenistan. The document was signed on behalf of our side by Sergej Kozlik, and on behalf of the partner side by Rejep Saparov. The memorandum specifies in ten points the individual spheres of mutual economic cooperation between the two countries and declares the special interest of the two countries in its expansion.

The Slovak delegation will leave for the capital of Uzbekistan tomorrow.

Japanese Delegation of Buinessmen Arrives

LD1605090095 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1355 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ashgabat, 15 May — A delegation of businessmen led by Kodzi Watanabe [name as received], ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Turkmenistan, arrived in Turkmenistan from Japan today.

At the [Turkmen] Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, a briefing was held for the Japanese delegation, which included representatives of large Japanese firms, with the participation of the heads of ministries and departments of Turkmenistan. [passage omitted]

A ceremony was also held today to transfer Japanese humanitarian aid to the Ministry of Health of Turkmenistan. Medicines and medical equipment valued at $13,000 were granted to Turkmenistan by the Government of Japan, within the framework of the program on providing special humanitarian assistance to the populations of newly independent states. According to the head of the delegation, the Japanese Government intends to supply ((more)) medicines and equipment to Turkmenistan in the future.

Privatization Criticized; Stricter Controls Ordered

LD1605103495 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1355 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The initial stage of Turkmenistan's privatization has clearly shown how difficult and thorny the path is toward the market. Most of the more than 1,000 privatized enterprises of everyday services are not functioning, and the new private owners, having frequently overestimated their own capacities, are cancelling the purchase of the facilities, thereby forcing repeat auctions and naturally hindering the process itself. The level of service at many public catering enterprises leaves much to be desired, which itself undermines the aim of privatization — to increase the effectiveness of labor.

The "Nan" cafe on Kotovskiy Street in Ashgabat is almost the only example of efficient management, whereas most of the others have just "changed the signboards."

Now that more than a year has passed since the first property auction was held, there is enough material for serious analysis and conclusions, which will help to work out a more flexible and balanced approach to the solution of the problem that would take all the specific features of the transitional period into account. President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan set the heads of ministries and departments this task in a speech at the meeting with the staff of the country's Ministry of Economy and Finance.

First, as the leaders of the Privatization and State Property Directorate believe, it is necessary to reconsider and amend standard documents regulating the auction-holding mechanism, buying enterprises by the workforce, and the procedure for paying for the facilities acquired. Working groups involved in checking the fulfillment of the conditions of purchase and sales contracts by new owners are to start working in all the country's regions as early as this month. These conditions include prohibition of sale, reorientation of output, and dismissal of the enterprise's former workers during one year. The working group also aims to decide whether trade rules are observed and to what extent service levels have improved. If the standards set by the agreement are violated, the privatization directorate reserves the right to dispossess the owners.

A total of 136 public catering and trade enterprises, currently employing 850 workers, have been privatized throughout the whole country. A total of 60 of the 136 enterprises have been bought by the workforce, and 76 enterprises have been sold at auction. Their total value comes to 290 million manats. However, only 161 million manats have been transferred to the special account of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Meets Japanese Financial Delegation

LD1605062595 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1430 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov received a Japanese delegation headed by Mr. (Eysuke Sakakibara) the president of the financial and monetary policy institute of the Ministry of Finance of Japan.

The head of our state briefed the Japanese guests on the five principles for economic transformation in the republic, on our own path of renovation and development in Uzbekistan, the distinguishing feature of which is the phased transition to market relations.

The legislative base created in our country guarantees the protection of foreign investments and assists in the development of all kinds of entrepreneurial activity, which has already brought positive results. A course of toughening monetary and credit policy is now being conducted, which should have a positive impact on reducing the inflation rate, Islam Karimov stressed. Mutually beneficial cooperation between the banks of Japan and Uzbekistan will promote the further deepening market relations.

The head of the Japanese delegation, (Eysuke Sakakibara), stressed that the aim of the delegation in Uzbekistan is to hold a seminar and have meetings at the leading economic departments of the republic in order to study the state of its economy and define the possibility of increasing Japanese investments in Uzbekistan's economy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Otkir Sultanov, the Chairman of the National Bank for Foreign Economic Relations Ramiz Azimov, First Deputy Minister of Finance Guskova, and the Ambassador of Japan to Uzbekistan Ukeru Magosaki took part in the meeting.

Feasibility of Producing Melamine Studied

LD1605104395 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 16 May 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has carried out an expert analysis of the feasibility of producing a raw material of which there is a shortage in the republic — melamine — for various branches of industry. [passage omitted]

According to the experts' estimates, the demand for melamine in Uzbekistan this year will be 3,000 tonnes. However, next year alone it will be more than twice as much. The major consumers are lacquer and paint industry enterprises and the "Makhalliy Sanoat" [Local Enterprise] state concern.

Can the republic provide itself with such an important product? The experts answer the question affirmatively. Output can be organized at the Fergana "Azot" industrial group. All the possibilities for it are present there. However, it is impossible to do without up-to-date technologies and equipment.

At present several firms in various countries own the licences and "know-how" in this sphere. They have united as a "commonwealth" and monopolized the design, production lines, output, and sales of melamine.

However there is no such thing as a hopeless situation. The Uzkhimprom [Uzbek chemical industry] state association and the "Azot" industrial group have carried out a study of a melamine production project with leading firms from the Netherlands, Japan, Italy, and Germany. A positive decision has been received from the Italian firm KTU. It proposed supplying a set of equipment for the production of 20 tonnes of melamine a year. The installation proposed by the firm is among the best achievements in technological, economic, and ecological efficiency in this sphere. Moreover, KTU gave its consent to consider the possibility of purchasing melamine as compensation for the transfer of technology. The small matter remains of financing the contract.

According to economists' estimates, melamine production in Fergana and sales of part of it on foreign markets will bring profit. With the foreign currency thus earned, highly efficient and competitive equipment can be bought for ammonium production, as proposed by KTU and the English firm U.S.U.[not further identified]. As we can see, the production profits of this organic compound for us at home are obvious.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev on Possible Oil 'Swap Deal' With Iran

LD1505141795 Tehran IRNA in English
1252 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, May 15, IRNA — President Geydar Aliyev says that it is still possible for the first crude produced by the Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC) to be exported through the Persian Gulf in an Iranian swap deal.

He also lists several projects for collaboration with Iran, including recent agreements being currently negotiated to construct a gas pipeline to Nakhichevan enclave, to build a refinery and a hydroelectric plant.

Azerbaijan's emergence as one of the world's leading new prospects for the development of oil has brought with it huge foreign interest that has led to equally immense geopolitical complications in relations with both its major neighbors, Iran and Russia.

But in an interview with PETROLEUM ARGUS, Aliyev maintained that over questions of participating in the country's vast energy resources, it is possible to satisfy all interests, including those of Iran and Russia as well as the U.S.

With regard to the controversy of the National Iranian Oil Company being excluded from the AIOC's dlrs 8 bn deal led by U.S. oil firms, he confirmed that this was through Washington protesting, arguing that his country had little choice.

The Socar state company, he said, owned a 20 percent stake and "can do with it whatever we want," but it was the consortium's decision not to admit Iran and "we had to go along."

Exporting the first crude due within 15 months remains a problem from the landlocked state and the Azeri president admitted that an oil swap deal with Iran was still being considered, but refused to confirm speculation that an agreement could be reached by next month.

An eventual pipeline was also yet to be finalised as "no one knows which route is the cheapest," but he suggested that eventually several pipelines could be needed as well as upgrading existing ones.

On the sensitive issue of the status of the Caspian Sea that could jeopardise oil development, Aliyev acknowledged there were many disputes which his country "desperately want to clarify" but wanted this done without speculation.

Oil Consortium Considers Possible Routes for Pipeline

NC1505181895 Baku TURAN in English
1152 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (May 15) TURAN — Azeri oil consortium considers two variants of the route of the oil pipeline: Baku-Hashuri-Batumi and Baku-Groznyy-Novorossiysk, the President of SOCAR [State Oil Company of Azerbaijan], Natig Aliyev, told TURAN agency.

Early May there was the session of Azerbaijan's International Operation Company [AOIC] in London, during which the export of the primary oil has been discussed. After the session the President of AIOC, Mr. Terry Adams, visited Russia to discuss the possibilities of export primary oil through Novorossiysk with "Transneft" Russian company.

President of SOCAR also said that today he will leave for Georgia to discuss the conditions of shipment of primary oil through the Georgian Black sea ports — Batumi and Poti.

As was earlier reported, the issue concerning the route of the export pipeline will be discussed on June 8, 1995 during the session of the Leading Consortium Committee.

According to the AIOC forecasts, the extraction of primary oil totalling approximately 5 million tons annually will start since middle 1996 and will, possibly, last until 2003.

Georgian Officials on Return of Meskhetian Turks

NC1505142895 Baku TURAN in English
0420 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (MAY 11) TURAN—A press-conference of personal representative of Eduard Shevardnadze for human rights and international relations, member of the parliament of Georgia and Head of the parliamentary Committee for repatriation of Guram Mamulia took place today in the Embassy of Georgia in Baku.

"My visit to Azerbaijan is connected with implementation of resolution of the Cabinet of Georgia on the return to their native places departed people, Turks-Meskhetins [Meskhetian Turks] in particular," Mamulia said. He said that the Turks-Meskhetins were departed from Georgia in 1944. During the departation their number totalled 90,000, now that figure has reached already 300,000. Today Georgia faces a great social, economic and political difficulties. Despite this the government of Georgia took a decision to start the implementation of that resolution without delay despite [sentence as received].

"According to information there are approximately 60,000 Turks-Meskhetins at the territory of Azerbaijan presently. Their return to native places will be implemented stage by stage. At first 40 families will be accepted, the lists those families have been drawn up already," Mamulia said. "The rights of the Turks-Meskhetins will be restored, they will receive privilages, will be exemped from taxes and can chose whatever place they like to live at the territory of Meskhetia."

According to information from Georgia, presently the citisens of Armenia move to Georgia and hide there from draft. Presently, some empty villages of Georgia bordering with Armenia (Meskhetia) are settled with people from Armenia.

After deportation from Georgia by Stalin the Turks-Meskhetins were settled in Middle Asia and Siberia. As a result of international clashes in 1989 they moved to Azerbaijan, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Ex-Premier Meets With 'Georgian Armed Groups'

NC1505181795 Baku TURAN in English
1154 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (MAY 15) TURAN—Before May 14 ex-premier, Suret Guseynov, was in the village of Gabal of the Lagodekhi region of Georgia (130 kilometres to the east of Tbilisi and 500 kilometres to the west of Baku), the credible local source reports. He said that Suret Guseynov with the group of his bodyguards arrived in Lagodekhi from Moscow through Vladikavkas on cars.

Guseynov arrived in Lagodekhi for the talks with the leaders of Georgian armed groups located in this region. According to several sources, the drug traffic issues were the subject to the last meeting.

Earlier official Baku reported that armed supporters of Suret Huseynov and the employees of the destroyed in March OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] live in the eastern regions of Georgia. the place with predominantly Azeri population. The same sources assured that the commandos are preparing for new armed conflicts against the current Azeri regime. After that two of the commandos were arrested by the Georgian authorities and extradited to Azerbaijan.

Interior Ministry Reports on OPON Issue

NC1505145095 Baku TURAN in English
1958 GMT 14 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (MAY 13) TURAN—The Ministry of Interior of the republic goes on detaining former employees of OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] in accordance with the resolution of the Milli Mejlis from March 22, 1995 "On measures for prevention of the coup attempts in the Republic of Azerbaijan and strengthening of state system".

The press-service of the Ministry of Interior reports that the former OPON employees — Hamza Garayev and Aleksandr Isayev — have been detained by the employees of the Police Management of the Binagadi region. During the detention, the policemen also found the machine-gun and BMW car. The press-service of the Ministry of Interior says that have been searching for ten sentenced to death persons, who escaped from the Bailov jail on October 1, 1994. One of them — Elmar Gasmamedov — has been detained recently in the Barda region. During the detention Gasmamedov put resistance and set off the grenade. One of the police employees was wounded, but he managed to shot at Gasmamedov. Mirali Novruzov, the owner of the house, where the equipment for production of drugs was found, was also arrested.

Georgia

Russian Commander on 'Tense' Situation in Abkhazia

LD1505200495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1806 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, May 15 (Interfax) — Commander of the Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia, Lieutenant-General Vasiliy Yakushev told Interfax that the situation in the Ghali Region of Abkhazia "remains tense."

He said he believed that "illegal actions of the Abkhaz police" were a destabilizing factor in the region.

Yakushev said that the peacekeeping forces had detained a band of 12 people who had been stealing cattle. Automatic guns were seized from the criminals.

Yakushev said that compared to the Ghali Region the situation in the security zone in the neighboring Zugdidi Region of Georgia "is more favorable."

"If there were no peacekeepers I'm quite sure that blood would be spilled again," Yakushev said. He said the peacekeeping forces "continue to remain the guarantor of peace and maintain conditions for talks."

'Practically All Aspects' of Abkhaz Settlement Agreed

LD1505150795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1246 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, May 15 (Interfax) — The leaders of Georgia and Russia have reached agreement on practically all aspects of an Abkhazian settlement. This was reported to Interfax by an advisor to Eduard Shevardnadze and a member of the Georgian delegation to the talks on Abkhazia Irakly Machavariani.

According to Machavariani, a common attitude to the political status of Abkhazia and the return of refugees was worked out.

He said the agreement stems from the strategic interests of the two countries. In his opinion, disregard for these interests by certain circles in Russia has led to the current situation in Abkhazia.

The advisor is convinced that today Russia is much more interested in improving the situation in Abkhazia than two years ago. According to Machavariani, Moscow has begun to pursue a realistic policy in the Caucasus, in particular with regard to Georgia.

He is convinced that such a policy will make the current leadership of Abkhazia accept the arguments for maintaining an indivisible Georgian state.

Abkhaz Supreme Council Condemns Gudauta Separatists

LD1505164895 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1515 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — The Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia today circulated a statement condemning the actions of the Gudauta separatists, who have infringed on the territorial integrity of Georgia and violated its borders. The statement stresses that the Governments of Georgia and Russia, along with the United Nations Organization and the world public, unanimously acknowledge the inviolability of Georgia's borders and the sovereignty of the republic.

Shevardnadze Thanks Mkhedrioni for Weapons Surrender

LD1505131395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 15 May 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, May 15 (Itar-Tass) — "Georgia will never revert to a state of chaos and anarchy any longer," Georgian state leader Eduard Shevardnadze has stated in Ambrolauri, a district centre in Western Georgia.

"The time has gone when individual armed groups, not the State, tried to dictate their order," he pointed out. Shevardnadze expressed gratitude to the leaders of the Georgia Rescuers' Corps (GRC), popularly known as the Mkhedrioni paramilitary group, for their attitude towards the firearms surrender issue.

At the same time he emphasised that "firearms should be surrendered to the State not only by GRC members but also by members of those political parties and organisations which possess an aggregate of up to 200-400 automatic weapons".

Shevardnadze: Political Parties Should Be Disarmed

LD1505192895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 15 May 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The disarmament process should concern a number of Georgian political parties which have formed armed units within the past years, said Shevardnadze.

When meeting regional heads and public in Ambrolauri, a regional center in the Georgian west, the state head dwelt on anti-crime measures and a tough state order.

He welcomed the disarmament of the Corps of Rescuers and promised that the law-enforcement bodies will work more. "Time when everything was settled with arms has gone in Georgia. Today the state can and will bring everything in order," said Shevardnadze.

Western nations, primarily Germany, will render material and technical aid to Georgia within a month to restore its energy system, Georgian state head Eduard Shevardnadze said in a traditional radio address on Monday. At the same time, "changes for the better" can be achieved only with the use of domestic resources, he noted.

Speaking of his trip to Moscow to attend celebrations of the 50th V-day, Shevardnadze stressed he "feels optimistic after meetings with the President and the Prime Minister of Russia and leaders of other states."

In the words of Shevardnadze, "all the political elite gathered in Moscow to worthily estimate the contribution of the Soviet Union in the victory over fascism." He believes that Russia was a "key state" in the years of the Second World War, and remains such today.

Estonia

Foreign Minister Addresses WEU Ministers in Lisbon

WS1605112895 Tallinn BNS in English
1951 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Lisbon\Tallinn, May 15, BNS — Estonia welcomes increased cooperation and further intensification of ties between the Western European Union [WEU] and NATO, Foreign Minister Riivo Sinijarv said in his remarks at the WEU foreign and defense ministers meeting Monday [15 May].

As an active participant in NACC [North Atlantic Cooperation Council] and the Partnership for Peace program, Estonia believes that the trans-Atlantic element is vital in guaranteeing the security of the continent, alongside and in partnership with the WEU.

He also said Estonia was hopeful that it could somehow contribute to discussions of increased EU-WEU cooperation in the run-up to the Inter-Governmental Conference.

"Although the Government is new, I can assure you that there will be no changes in our fundamental foreign and defence policy directions — we intend to stay on the course of integration with European security structures, an important element of which is our participation in the Western European Union," he said.

Referring to the "Common Reflections" paper, Sinijarv said Estonia in the course of its preparation had been able to discuss jointly its shared concerns and arrive at common understandings.

"We are hopeful that this effort, and the message imparted therein, will continue under the upcoming Spanish presidency," he said.

Commenting on the Lisbon Ministerial Declaration due to be approved during this meeting, he said Estonia wished to associate itself fully with this document, which indeed was expressing the views common to the Twenty-Seven. [passage omitted]

Russia To Spend $3.4 Million Dismantling Reactors

WS1605102695 Tallinn BNS in English
1809 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, May 15, BNS — Russia is ready to spend 17 billion rubles (about $3.4 million) until the final dismantling of nuclear reactors in the former Soviet base at Paldiski, an Estonian official said.

The Estonian government's special representative to Paldiski, Juri Tikk, told BNS that Russia was planning to cover one of the reactor bodies with concrete and remove all of its remaining equipment, for which it gets Estonia's permission, from the Baltic country's soil by the end of September, the deadline by which its crews working on the facility must leave the Baltic country.

The total of 17 billion rubles includes the reactor parts and equipment already taken out of Estonia, including the reactor rods, the official added.

Most of the money needed for environmental clean-up at Paldiski and making the formed off-limits zone a normal civilian area again comes from the Nordic countries and the United States.

Latvia

Ulmanis Holds Talks With Portuguese President

LD1505195195 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
1700 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Latvia—who intends to join the European Union in the immediate future—is currently establishing close contacts with many western European countries. One of them is Portugal, where Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis arrived for a visit on 15 May. In the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, the Latvian president was welcomed by the Latvian national anthem and a parade of the Portuguese Army at the place of official reception ceremonies on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean.

During the talks between the Portuguese and Latvian presidents, Guntis Ulmanis said that Latvia was developing a market economy, creating its own national security structures, and trying to get involved in the European collective security structures. As is known, this issue is very topical after the recent talks in Moscow between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The Portuguese president believes, first of all, that the three Baltic states have to unite among themselves. Close economic, legislative, and political cooperation should be developed, and it is necessary to get into the European structures jointly.

Naval Exercises With Estonia, Lithuania Begin

LD1605113995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
0900 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian joint exercises began in Liepaja today. During the exercises the three states will test the combat readiness of their ships and their ability to act together.

Gaidis Zeibots, commander of the Latvian naval forces, noted that it is also the aim of these exercises to assess how the personnel and commanders have mastered documents received from NATO General Headquarters. These are the first and only exercises before the Baltic states' ships participate in the Baltops international exercises scheduled for June and the autumn exercises which will be held within the framework of the NATO program Partnership for Peace.

Lithuania

Slezevicius Favorably Assesses Russian Relations

LD1505133295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0945 GMT 15 May 95

[By Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, May 15 (ITAR-TASS) — "Economic relations with Russia have improved, since the most favoured nation's regime in trade has been operating from the start of this year. There are no substantial problems in interstate relations either," Lithuanian Prime Minister Aldolfas Slezevicius said in an interview with the EKHO LITVY newspaper published on Monday [15 May].

The premier stressed that the two countries could resolve such important issues in the recent past as military transit to the Kaliningrad region.

This normally developing dialogue inspires hope that economic relations between the two countries will expand. "We do not conceal our interest in developing the concept of 'a bridge between the West and the East' in cooperation with Russia which has huge resources of raw materials and can serve as a market for Lithuanian products."

Turning to "cooling" of relations between the ruling Democratic Labour Party of Lithuania (DLPL) which is headed by the prime minister, and national minorities in the country in the recent past (which was corroborated by the elections to local councils), he said: "Some of our decisions changed views of national minorities to the policy of the DLPL. I'd like to point, above all, to some aspects of the application of the State Langauge Law. To my mind, that was not the best solution of the problem."

The premier went on to say that Lithuanians "have a joke: 'Three Lithuanians — five parties'. However, it has turned out that national minorities in Lithuania do not lag behind in the number of non-government organisations representing their interests.

"There are many of them in the Russian diaspora too. This creates problems for the government and the DLPL to maintain contacts, since many organisations have different tasks. If they united and agreed their positions, the dialogue would be more constructive."

Landsbergis on Russia, Belarus Military Alliance

WS1605102495 Tallinn BNS in English 1809 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, May 15, BNS — Moscow's plans to include Lithuania in a military alliance with Russia and Belarus are successfully implemented by transporting troops to Chechnya through Lithuanian airspace, Lithuanian opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis said Monday [15 May].

"First, a pressed-on reality, and then, agreements consolidating the already existing reality," Landsbergis said in a written statement.

The opposition leader pointed out that by announcing information about troops transported to Chechnya, Russia discredits Lithuania, leaving no possibility even for explanations that not everything was known. Therefore, he said, Lithuania should turn down all Russian requests for transportation of troops in the direction of the Caucasus.

At a news conference Monday, Landsbergis said he was concerned that U.S. President Bill Clinton, during his recent visit to Moscow, "tended to recognize Russia's right not to observe international treaties and to get concessions."

Not even waiting until the West decides whether Russia is allowed to break the conventional arms reduction treaty and to concentrate troops where they are not supposed to be, Moscow creates a new army in the Caucasus, Landsbergis noted. Russia thus presses on its will, "while the leader of the strongest nation does not resist," he added.

Discussing the situation in Belarus, Landsbergis noted that a "Middle East-type totalitarian regime" is emerging near Lithuania.

The opposition leader expressed concern that Moscow's expansionist forces will be able to use Belarus for provocations against Lithuania. Russia would represent Lithuania's relations with Belarus as problematic and would come with a "mission of peace," he said, adding that such is "the dream" of powerful political forces seeking to restore the Soviet Union.

Further Comments on Military Alliance

LD1605090295 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 15 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia is implementing its plans to incorporate Lithuania into a military alliance of Russia, Belarus, and Lithuania by transporting its troops to Chechnya via the Lithuanian airspace, according to Vytautas Landsbergis, the leader of the right-wing opposition at the Lithuanian Seimas.

First, the reality is pressed on Lithuania, and then treaties that consolidate this reality are being pressed, Landsbergis noted in his statement circulated on Monday [15 May].

Landsbergis believes that even those countries that make the largest concessions to Russia would never allow this country to transport its troops over their territory or airspace.

Meanwhile, the Lithuanian Government allows such transit and thereby makes Lithuania a second-class country in terms of sovereignty and decency, Landsbergis noted.

According to the leader of the right-wing opposition, Russia is openly discrediting Lithuania by releasing information about the troops that are transported to Chechnya, since it deprives Lithuania even of the possibility to claim that it was not aware [of the nature of the transit].

Therefore, Lithuania should give a negative response to Russia's requests for permits to transport troops in the direction of the Caucasus [via Lithuanian airspace], Landsbergis said.

President: Tax Evasion Is State's Main Problem

LD1605104195 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 16 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] I cannot think of any task that would currently be more important for the government and the law enforcement agencies than fighting crime and, specifically, fighting tax evasion, said Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas in his interview with Lithuanian television last night. The president's interview lasted for almost 30 minutes.

Failing to pay bills to the state is one of the gravest criminal offenses, the president said.

Algirdas Brazauskas believes that pensions could have been increased to reach 200 litas if only the people employed with private enterprises would pay their taxes.

President Brazauskas reminded [the TV audience] that around 400,000 people in Lithuania work in the private sector. A large number of [private] enterprises do not pay their contributions to the social insurance funds [the president said].

Algirdas Brazauskas strongly reproached tax inspectorates, the work of which, according to him, is still unsatisfactory. The president suggested that the recently elected local councils and the executive bodies appointed by them should pay more attention to the problems of tax administration. Customs offices, border control services, the economic police, and tax inspectorates must interact more efficiently [President Brazauskas said].

The president noted that more than 240 million litas, adjudged by courts to the state, failed to be recovered. Court bailiffs are largely responsible for this, Algirdas Brazauskas said. It is necessary to alter the laws so that the bailiffs as well as other civil servants feel that they will be responsible for their job, President Brazauskas stressed.

Nevertheless, the president expressed his satisfaction with the fact that budget revenue amounted to more than 280 million litas in April. If tax collection keeps on like this, the budget affairs should improve very shortly, Algirdas Brazauskas said.

Concern Over Russian Secret Service Activities

LD1205122995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 12 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] members has warned President Algirdas Brazauskas that Russian KGB, Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and criminal circles have united into organized criminal structures and are now active in Lithuania. The 11 Seimas members who signed the open letter to the president believe there is a threat that these secret services may take control of political processes in Lithuania through undercover structures or in some other way due to the inactivity of our state institutions,

The letter was signed by Seimas members who represent right-wing and centrist political forces. They urge the president and the State Security Council to become concerned with the state of Lithuania's security and to start eliminating the factors which seriously threaten making Lithuania subjugated to foreign forces and influence.

The Seimas members stress that the above Russian structures are penetrating the Baltic states and that Western countries are concerned about the expansion of Russia's secret service activities. The letter stresses that no investigation has been carried out into the origin of the capital with which companies, hotels, and other structures were set up in Lithuania by [former] KGB officials or members of their families.

The letter criticizes the work of the Lithuanian Security Service, the National Defense Ministry, and the [Diplomatic] Immunity Service. One can only guess why persons whose loyalty to Lithuania is most doubtful are allowed to take up posts at important state institutions and to have access to important state information, the members of the Lithuanian Seimas stressed.

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